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Cuba

Reportage on Situation in Embassy in Panama

Official on Developments

FL2212145289 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1355 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Early this morning we were able to make contact with the Cuban Embassy in Panama City. Communications had been interrupted for approximately 10 hours, but we were able to make contact with a Cuban embassy official. We will now play the recorded interview for you because its content carries a very important message and an alert on things that might occur in reference to this diplomatic headquarters.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Dear friends, we have the Cuban Embassy in Panama on the phone. Good morning.

[Martin] Good morning.

[Reporter] What is your name, Comrade?

[Martin] Martin of the Cuban Embassy.

[Reporter] Martin, what is the situation like? Is the embassy still surrounded?

[Martin] The embassy continues to be surrounded.

[Reporter] Have snipers been posted nearby?

[Martin] There are snipers on nearby buildings, the Central American Hotel and the Roma Hotel.

[Reporter] Martin, are you able to come and go from the embassy?

[Martin] Movement is very limited.

[Reporter] Limited by whom?

[Martin] Embassy security will not allow our personnel to have free access. The U.S. has imposed limitations in that area.

[Reporter] Martin, from what you can hear, what is the situation in the city now?

[Martin] First, I want to explain that the only radio that is functioning is the clandestine radio that they have established. As you know, the national radio and its network was brutally destroyed by U.S. commandos, who set it on fire and destroyed it completely. The only information that we can hear is what they give. Even so, in the information they are giving, they say that they are still very concerned because there is still a lot of resistance.

Last night in the embassy, we could hear shooting from various locations throughout the city. We also learned that the San Miguelito area was massively bombed. The bombing lasted about 20 or 25 minutes. It was heavy bombing.

[Reporter] Martin, have you had previous contact with correspondent Nelson Notario Castro?

[Martin] Nelson has called the embassy, but the communications keep getting interrupted.

[Reporter] The problem, Martin, is that we are trying to get in touch with him, and the phone numbers we have for him are not working. We are concerned about the safety of our comrade.

[Martin] We are also trying to get in touch with him. His phones are also having problems. He is limited because the United States did not accredit him. (?They requested) another journalist.

[Reporter] Right. In summary, Martin, the Cuban Embassy continues to be surrounded by U.S. military forces and entrance to and exit from the embassy is limited to personnel, right?

[Martin] Yes, this has been established by the invaders themselves. The presidency was totally looted. They took everything from us. They stole everything. There were groups of people, some say that even some of their personnel participated. The French Embassy was also looted. The Spanish ambassador is not being allowed to go find a Spanish journalist. The situation is chaotic.

The radio station, the clandestine radio station, is inciting the population to mobilize toward the embassy. It is spreading those lies, which you are aware of, so that the people will mobilize toward us, toward the embassy. [end recording]

Ambassador's Home Surrounded

FL2412203889 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2019 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Report by Fran Diaz Doniquian]

[Text] Moments ago, the Spanish news agency, EFE, reported that the Cuban Embassy in Panama has been surrounded by tanks and 120 soldiers in combat positions since 1400. A helicopter gunship is flying over the residence where many Cuban diplomats and their relatives are staying.

In a telephone conversation with EFE, the Cuban ambassador's wife, Maria Elena Mora, denied that General Manuel Antonio Noriega was in the embassy. Houses around the ambassador's residence have been evacuated, the Cuban diplomat's wife said, who interpreted this act as a possible imminent attack by the U.S. military.

I just received an urgent report from PRENSA LATINA that says, and I quote: Panama, 24 December, PRENSA LATINA— U.S. assault troops at 1425 today surrounded the Cuban ambassador's residence taking combat positions. An airplane [as heard] is flying over

the residence where the wives and children of the Cuban diplomatic corps have been staying since the U.S. invasion began on Wednesday, 20 December.

Protest Filed With UN

FL2412223989 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2224 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Report by Fran Diaz]

[Text] PRENSA LATINA reports from New York that Cuba has denounced to the United Nations the U.S. military siege [as heard] of the Cuban ambassador's residence in Panama City where women and children have taken refuge. A Cuban Embassy spokesman in New York told the press that the Cuban Embassy in the isthmian nation was surrounded by armored vehicles and about 100 soldiers in combat positions.

PRENSA LATINA reports from Panama that Panama's apostolic nuncio, Msgr Jose Sebastian Laboa, protested the ring of U.S. soldiers around several diplomatic headquarters in Panama to General Maxwell Thurman, chief of the Southern Command. The Cuban Embassy and the Panamanian apostolic nuncio's home itself are surrounded by U.S. assault troops while airplanes and gunships fly over the areas.

Alarcon on Situation

FL2512014789 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon, first vice minister of Foreign Relations, this afternoon stressed to the press Cuba's position in regard to the presence of U.S. troops in the vicinity of the Cuban Embassy and ambassador's residence in Panama City.

[Begin recording] [Alarcon] We strongly protested right away when, after the U.S. invasion began, the United States stationed U.S. troops in front of our embassy, in front of the offices of the Cuban Embassy.

As of 1420 This afternoon a much more serious situation arose, which is still in progress. U.S. combat units, in combat positions, have been deployed around the Cuban Embassy offices and the ambassador's residence while A-37 airplanes and helicopters are flying over these installations. They have even installed artillery, machine guns, and heavy artillery on some roofs near the embassy. As if that were not enough, U.S. soldiers are using loudspeakers to tell the neighborhood people in both locations to evacuate the vicinity, which implies the threat of attack in the area.

We have conveyed our strongest protest to the U.S. representative in Havana and a similar effort is being [corrects himself] was made in Washington with the Department of State, and we have informed the UN secretary general and the UN Security Council president of this serious situation, and we have warned the United States of their tremendous responsibility. We have told the U.S. Government that it should think about what it will do because our personnel will, of course, know how to be worthy of the people in the case of any attack.

[Reporter] Who is in the embassy, and what is their situation?

[Alarcon] The comrades are well. They are in good spirits. Their disposition is revolutionary, comparable to what our people have demonstrated so eloquently throughout the country during these past few days. All of them feel the same, including the 29 women and 19 children that are in the residence and the 10 women who are in the embassy. [end recording]

Government Warns U.S.

FL2512002189 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0002 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] The Cuban Government today warned the U.S. Government that it should think very hard about the actions that it plans to take against the residence of the Cuban ambassador to Panama, which U.S. troops surrounded this afternoon.

Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon said in a news conference that the head of the U.S. Interests Section, John Taylor, was summoned as soon as news was received on the action and Taylor received Cuba's strongest protest while he was also reminded of the U.S. Government's responsibility for what occurs.

In reference to the action that the Cuban personnel—located in the residence and embassy, which has been surrounded for days—will take against an eventual attack, Alarcon said they have received instructions to defend their headquarters. I am convinced that they will act appropriately and will react to the circumstances, just as any other Cuban would do, he said.

Envoy Denounces 'Provocations'

FL2512191589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1801 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Last-minute reports indicate that the U.S. troops that surround the Cuban Embassy in Panama City have placed a small tank at the entrance of the building, they have donned gas masks, a truck with troops reinforcements has arrived, and that video cameras located outside the building were disconnected. At the same time, an officer commanding the troops that surround the residence of the Cuban ambassador in the isthmian capital, Major (Paxton), said to Luis Delfin, deputy chief of the Cuban mission, that he is not aware of Washington's position, but that he is carrying out orders from his superiors at the Southern Command to capture high-ranking Panamanian officials and military personnel.

Lazaro Mora Secades, Cuban ambassador to Panama, has just denounced these provocations via the telephone to the chairman of the UN Security Council, the Colombian Enrique Pena Loza.

Regarding the surrounding of the Cuban Embassy and the ambassador's residence by U.S. troops, the Soviet Foreign Ministry has emphasized that the USSR advocates the respect for diplomatic norms and their fulfillment under any circumstance. Today, the Soviet news agency TASS, echoed the Cuban Government's protest against the surrounding of the diplomatic headquarters by U.S. troops. [passage omitted]

Envoy Calls Situation 'House Arrest'

FL2512195089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1931 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] Last-minute report: The United Nations—During a telephone conversation today at noon with the chairman of UN Security Council, the Cuban ambassador in Panama has termed as house arrest the denial to diplomatic personnel to enter or exit that mission. PRENSA LATINA got in touch with the Cuban envoy in Panama, Lazaro Mora Secades, who confirmed he had spoken with Enrique Pena Loza and to whom he denounced the house arrest situation to which he is submitted by the occupation troops in what appears to be a prelude to a direct aggression.

The Cuban representative said he had asked Pena Loza, as chairman of the UN Security Council, to inform U.S. envoy to the UN, Thomas Pickering, that the U.S. Government is the only one responsible for the events that could occur as a result of the serious violation of diplomatic rights and international laws. This is a last-minute report from the United Nations.

Havana Reports on Castro Letter to UN

FL2212173789 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1438 GMT 22 Dec 89

["Text" of letter sent by President Fidel Castro to the United Nations; from the "Haciendo Radio" program—read by announcer]

[Text] Your Excellency Mr Enrique Penalosa, president of the Security Council; Your Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations Organization;

Mr President, Mr Secretary General:

I see myself as having the inevitable responsibility of addressing Your Excellencies in view of the brutal and cunning aggression of the Government and the Armed Forces of the United States of America of which the people and Government of Panama are victims. It is not the first time that a small nation of our America is facing the interventionist clawings of the U.S. Government. Santo Domingo, Grenada, and Nicaragua are recent wounds in a continent which, since the end of the last century, were repeatedly inflicted by the Marine Corps and soldiers of the empire and they do not hesitate today to invade the brother Republic of Panama with the declared purpose of overthrowing its government and imposing a puppet regime that will allow the continued occupation of the Panama Canal beyond the time specified in the Torrijos-Carter treaties. This is the true and shameful motive of their aggression.

The President of the United States attempts to justify the gross violation of international law and the United Nations Charter by no less citing Article 51, which acknowledges that each state has the legitimate right to self-defense. Such contempt on the part of the intelligence [as heard] of the United States, a member of the United Nations, is similar to the impudence shown when they themselves, accused of aggression, attempt to pass themselves off as the victims.

Today, the blood of hundreds of Panamanian patriots is being shed over the generous earth that the liberator Simon Bolivar chose to be the site of the Amphictyonic Congress more than 100 years ago. Nothing is more opportune now than to recall his historic sentence: The United States plagues the peoples of America with misery in the name of democracy and liberty.

The children of that people, with their firm resistance, are, and will always be, worthy heirs of the spirit of the liberator. The people of Cuba, submitted for 30 years to the pressures, harassment, and aggression of the imperialists is, with all its heart, beside the Panamanian people that fights for its independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. We know that the only peace and security our people can expect is that which we ourselves are able to conquer with our own heroism. That is why the only road to victory is that of resistance, which today is occurring in Panama against the invaders.

The UN Security Council is meeting to consider the aggression of the United States, one of its permanent members, and as such it holds special responsibility for maintaining international peace and security against a country with barely 2.5 million people. If a permanent member of the council, a principal leader of NATO, under the absurd pretext of defending democracy and protecting itself from a fabricated and nonexistent aggression, can trample the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of another state with impunity, without being prevented by that organization, without that organization demanding an end to the aggression and the unconditional withdrawal of the invaders, then the statements made by your members on compliance with the principles of international law and the ideals of the founders of the United Nations are of little use.

Cuba, which as of next year will share the responsibilities of that high organization in the role of nonpermanent member, cannot fail to say now that to our people and government, the UN Charter is not and cannot just be a

worthless document, a rhetorical reference that the powerful can violate at any time, mocking the right of the peoples and sullying their dignity, sovereignty, and independence.

We hope that the council, its president, and the secretary general of the United Nations will take the decisive action that the peoples of the United Nations demand in favor of the Panamanian people under attack, who are defending with integrity their right to freely decide their destiny.

I take advantage of the opportunity to reiterate my highest regards to your excellencies.

[Signed] Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Council of State and the Government of the Republic of Cuba.

Rodriguez, Soviet Envoy Condemn U.S. Action

FL2212190189 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] From 18 to 20 December, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, and Viktor G. Komplektov, special envoy of the Soviet directorate and deputy minister of Soviet Foreign Relations, held extensive discussions in Havana on several aspects of the international situation. During the talks, the two officials discussed events in Central America, the possibilities for a political solution to the conflict in that region, and the initiatives that have been presented, including those in the United Nations.

The two parties paid special attention to the latest events in Panama and condemned the actions against that country, which violate international law.

The talks took place in an atmosphere of friendship, which characterizes relations between Cuba and the Soviet Union.

Castro Sends Message to Nonaligned Movement

FL2312023889 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has sent a message to the president of the Nonaligned Movement, the Yugoslav Janez Drnovsek, in which he expresses the importance of reinforcing solidarity with the heroic struggle of the isthmian nation. The message of the Cuban Government states it feels it is necessary to accelerate the actions of support by international organizations to isolate the American aggressor. The World Trade Union Federation, the International Student Union, and the Women's World Federation have also demanded the immediate cessation of the military aggression and the respect for the self-determination and sovereignty of the Panamanian people.

The Governments of Poland and Czechoslovakia and the EEC have termed the invasion as unjustifiable.

Foreign Minister Campaigns for Aid for Panama

FL2412023689 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0114 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] The Government of Cuba today contacted the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva, Switzerland to make a Cuban airplane available to that organization, which would take very scarce medicine, plasma, and food items, under the banner of this institution, to the brother country that is the victim of the sly aggression of the United States. This same plane could bring back to Cuba the injured who the Red Cross itself feels must be brought our country for medical attention.

The president of the Red Cross expressed the organization's appreciation for Cuba's offer and he said that he is also discussing a similar offer with U.S. authorities to send two DC-9 airplanes to Panama with the means and resources needed to give attention to about 400 injured people. Mr (Cornelio Somaruga) said that the Red Cross was able to get its officials to Panama City yesterday so that they can begin to evaluate the situation, after which he will be able to inform the Government of Cuba about the kind of assistance required.

Simultaneously, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmerica, on behalf of the Government of Cuba, has sent letters to each Latin American and Caribbean country informing them of the Cuban initiative and asking their respective governments to offer similar assistance to the people of Panama through the International Red Cross Committee.

In a meeting held this morning with Latin American and Caribbean ambassadors and charge d'affaires accredited in Havana, the Cuban foreign minister presented the officials with their respective messages and gave the diplomats a detailed briefing on the progress of Cuba's gesture. In his meeting with the Latin American and Caribbean representatives, Comrade Isidoro Malmierca stressed that the information received from Panama confirmed that the warlike actions had escalated and the people had increased their resistance against the Yankee invaders. Malmierca stressed that the state of war in Panama may last indefinitely and already hundreds have died and thousands have been injured by the U.S. aggression. This situation, the Cuban foreign minister told the heads of the diplomatic missions, has created a critical shortage of medicine and medical material for the treatment of the growing number of injured, which is complicated by the shortage of supplies and food.

In conclusion, Comrade Malmierca called on the diplomats of this country to quickly convey Cuba's request to their respective governments.

After the Cuban leader finished his briefing, Panamanian Ambassador to Cuba Orestes Nieto expressed his appreciation and satisfaction with the Cuban gesture. He added that because of the serious injures suffered by Panama's civilian population, this is a gesture of solidarity that is very necessary and opportune and he

expressed his hope that the assistance will be made available as soon as possible.

Alarcon Discusses Asylum for Noriega

PA2512220489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2122 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] Havana, 25 Dec (EFE)—If Panamanian General Manuel Antonio Noriega had requested political asylum in Cuba "it would have been granted without hesitation," Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon has said.

Alarcon made this statement here before it was confirmed that Noriega had taken refuge in the Apostolic Nunciature in Panama, but today we were not able to consult with him to see if the offer of asylum still stands.

Reports received from Panama indicated that Gen Noriega had expressed the intention of seeking political asylum "in Cuba or Spain," although it does not seem as if he has presented a request to either of the two countries.

Alarcon confirmed that several Panamanians linked to Gen Noriega's government, which was ousted by U.S. troops, are in the Cuban Embassy and have requested political asylum.

The Cuban vice minister did not give the number or political significance of the Panamanians who have taken refuge in his embassy, but said that "there are not many," and that "none of them is a prominent political figure."

Alarcon harshly criticized the military cordon imposed by U.S. soldiers around the Cuban Embassy and ambassadorial residence.

On this subject, he said that the Cuban Government has sent a "vigorous protest," to Jim Taylor, chief of the U.S. Interests Section in Cuba (Cuba and the United States do not have diplomatic relations; each country has an "interests office" in the other country.)

According to the vice foreign minister, the United States "is violating all tenets of international law," but it should "think carefully" and "accept the consequences" before it takes any action against the Cuban Embassy in Panama.

Foreign Minister Comments on Situation in Panama

FL2612024989 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0150 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca by Felix Fernando Garrido; at Foreign Ministry—live or recorded]

[Text] [Garrido] Greetings to all Radio Rebelde listeners. We are at our country's Foreign Ministry to talk with Isidoro Malmierca, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and foreign minister. The Yankee invasion situation in Panama is known. The siege of our embassy is known. They have even gone beyond that and have besieged, have carried out a provocation, at the residence of our ambassador to Panama.

How does our Foreign Ministry assess these events?

[Malmierca] As you mentioned, what is happening in Panama is one of the grossest and most incredible violations of international law. It is a new expression of the brutal nature of imperialism. The people of Panama are being submitted to an unprecedented aggression. Thousands of Panamanians have died. Anything could happen in that country at this time.

As part of that situation, Cuban diplomatic representatives have also suffered the consequences of the U.S. invasion. As you noted, our ambassador's residence has been surrounded with assault tanks and several hundred U.S. Armed Forces members who are blocking the access to and from the building. Our ambassador has attempted to leave the building several times to go to the Cuban Embassy in Panama City, and he has not been allowed to do so.

Yesterday and today, we strongly protested before the chief of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, and also Comrade Arbesu, chief of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington, has contacted State Department officials. The ones in Washington and Havana have reiterated that no aggressive action against our personnel is being carried out and that our personnel are free to come and go to and from our installations. Nevertheless, the U.S. military forces surrounding our installations are denying those instructions. They say the instructions they have are of detaining and arresting any Cuban who attempts leave those installations regardless of their diplomatic rank.

A few minutes ago, we again summoned the chief of the U.S. Interests Section. He is at the Foreign Ministry at this time so that we can express once more our complaint because of this situation, so that he can note the grave responsibility they are facing, and so that we can warn him that they should not make any mistake in treating Cuban diplomats in Panama.

[Garrido] Minister, there is a frank contradiction between the response given to the Cuban Foreign Ministry by U.S. Interests Section officials here and State Department officials in the United States, and the reality of aggressive troops surrounding our embassy and the ambassador's residence.

[Malmierca] Indeed, there is a frank contradiction. In addition, the sole presence of our officials has provoked a true deployment and clearing for action. They are threatened by the U.S. soldiers' weapons. We have also decided to submit the complaint about this situation to the chairman of the UN Security Council, Colombia's

Ambassador Pena Loza, to let him know that, despite reiterated complaints to the U.S. authorities, the situation has not changed.

[Garrido] We thank Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, member of the PCC Central Committee, for his comments to Radio Rebelde.

Friends, at the time in which this exchange ends with Minister Isidoro Malmierca here at the Foreign Ministry, we just saw Mr John Taylor, chief of the U.S. Interests Section in our country, leave the building. He was summoned to come to the Foreign Ministry this evening.

Government Requests Security Council Meeting

PA2612044789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0412 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Havana, 25 Dec (EFE)—It was announced today that the Cuban Government has requested an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss the issue of its embassy in Panama that has been threatened by U.S. troops since Sunday.

The information on the request was released here tonight in a communique issued by the Cuban Foreign Ministry.

The request was made because it has been impossible to obtain a "responsible answer" from U.S. authorities, the Cuban Foreign Ministry note said.

In this regard, Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon yesterday presented a protest note to John Taylor, head of the U.S. Interests Section in Cuba (Cuba and the United States do not have diplomatic relations).

Several Panamanians loyal to the government of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, who was ousted from his post as head of government and commander of the Army, have taken refuge at the Cuban Embassy in Panama. The embassy has been surrounded since yesterday by U.S. troops and warlike actions are being carried out in front of it.

Ceremony To Wrap Up Rallies at Interests Section

FL2312194389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1815 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] A ceremony will be held in front of the U.S. Interests Section offices this afternoon. This was reported to the Cuban television by Comrade (Glenma Soy), second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Provincial Committee in the capital.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Comrade (Glenma), how have our people been mobilized during this drive in support of the Panamanian people?

[(Soy)] It has been an incredible mobilization. As you can see right now, the combativeness of students, the people, and workers has been incredible. Comrades have come organized by various work centers, by their areas of residence, by the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR], the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC], have mobilized. I believe we have exceeded all the estimates we had of the participation in support of Panama. I believe the population has responded in this way because we feel this attack on Panama as our own.

[Reporter] Has this spontaneous rally our population has staged affected production at any time or school activities in the case of students?

[(Soy)] Well, production has not been affected. The main work centers that have been mobilized have been administrative work centers and administrative sections of production centers as well as many production centers outside their work schedule. That is, they have attended after the end of their production shift. Some workers have committed themselves to make up the lost time. Students have done the same thing. They have attended at the end of their classes. In some cases, they have attended in the middle of classes but they have made commitments to recover the lost time.

[Reporter] How is this Saturday's mobilization going to be in the capital?

[(Soy)] We are going to wrap up our people's activities in support of Panama this Saturday. Various municipalities are going to rally throughout the day. In the afternoon, after 1800, we are going to hold the main ceremony. Rallies are also going to be held in all the provinces of the country before 1830. The main ceremony will be held in our capital after that time. Representatives of mass organizations will participate. That is, representatives from the CDR's, FMC, Union of Young Communists, the National Association of Small Farmers, Federation of Secondary School Students, and Federation of University Students. We believe this ceremony will have great impact because of the population's combativeness.

This does not mean that our people's demonstrations will end with this ceremony. We will wait for and will be up to date with the entire situation in Panama and, if necessary, we will continue to show in front of the Interests Section our willingness to support the Panamanian people. [end recording]

Lezcano Speaks at Anti-U.S. Rally

FL2412032389 Havana Tele-Rebelde and Radio Rebelde and Radio Havana Cuba Networks in Spanish 0016 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Speech by Jorge Lezcano, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, PCC, in Havana City Province and member of the PCC Central Committee, in, at a rally in front of U.S. Interests Section in Havana—live]

[Text] Experienced and revolutionary people of the capital of the first socialist state in America. This ceremony summarizes 4 uninterrupted days of expression of solidarity by the Cuban people with the brother people of Panama, and it is an expression of strong condemnation

of the fascist invasion of the soldiering U.S. empire in Panama. Throughout the country, in each province, millions of Cubans have expressed with indignation, with hatred toward the enemy, their permanent solidarity with the heroic Panamanian people. Here in our capital, during those 4 days, over 1.4 million capital residents have gathered in front of the U.S. Interests Section to condemn this barbaric action carried out against Panama, and against all of Latin America. Our workers, students, artists, scientists, intellectuals, men and women, children, young and old, all our people in unison have shouted: Yankee, get out of Panama! Viva the heroic Panamanian people! [Crowd shouts: Viva!]

On 21 December, Comrade Fidel in his strong condemnation against the aggression, and in his clear message to the world, clearly stated the will and decisiveness of all the Cuban people. He emphasized the absurd arguments and stupid pretexts of imperialism's invasion into Panama. He made it very clear in his arguments that one of those pretexts, one of those many absurdities, is for example the pretext that the invasion was in response to alleged sexual abuse attempts against a U.S. woman. However, that same empire, that same fascist army, didn't even flinch when four U.S. nuns were raped and brutally murdered in El Salvador. Neither this pretext nor any other could have been the one the U.S. had to invade Panama, only their prepotency, their racist hatred of Latin American peoples, only their yearnings for power all over the world are their true arguments to carry out these aggressions.

Unexpected by the United States, the Panamanian people are resisting heroically. Their elite forces, over 32,000 soldiers armed and equipped with the most sophisticated destruction weapons, have not been able to break the rebellious and courageous Panamanian people. Today we see a clear lesson of courage and heroism of the Panamanian people that rises as a symbol for all of Central America, Latin America, and the whole world. The Yankees knew how to begin the invasion, but they may not know how to finish it now. The Panamanians knew how to face the aggression, and also know how they will finish it—resisting, fighting, and willing to die.

The Panamanian people, with their decision and willingness to confront the empire as shown by their resistance these past few days, now face their willingness to take on a struggle of systematic resistance, sustained by their desire and decision, by their patriotism and courage, by the Central American people's experience in fighting. Starting today, it is certain the imperialists will not have a moment's rest, because wherever there may be a rifle in the hand of a Panamanian revolutionary, wherever there may be a Panamanian revolutionary, there they will find the resistance of a whole nation that will fight despite all the adversities until the imperialists are defeated, no matter how long it takes. [applause] Justice and triumph are on their side.

It is clear that the imperialists have also carried out this invasion intoxicated by what is happening in the European socialist countries. They think the end of socialism has come, and they believe they now have a free hand and the road open to attack, without any response, small nations in our continent. Don't let them make a mistake with us, don't let their intoxication lead them to attack our people. On 21 December, Fidel said that many of our country's municipalities have more firepower than the firepower the patriotic forces of the National Guard and of the Dignity Battalions had at the time of the aggression. Ratifying that statement by Comrade Fidel, we say that the firepower of our capital, just the firepower of the Territorial Troops Militia, is much greater than all the firepower the Panamanians had when they faced the imperialist aggression. Furthermore, the firepower of the capital's 15 municipalities, which are ready for the defense, is greater than all the firepower the Panamanian brothers had available when they faced the imperialist aggression. I also add that our people and our militiamen know how to shoot, and they can shoot well. They know where they have to aim to annihilate the enemy. Our command cadres, and the combatants of all the units, the defense councils, are ready to act and fight under any circumstances—even if they don't have communications, at all times, they know they must resist, that they fight until they annihilate the enemy. [applause]

In our capital, as well as in all the cities of our country, we will fight neighborhood by neighborhood, block by block, house by house, rock by rock, and even the rocks will fight if necessary. [applause] We defend, and we will defend, at the price of our lives, the ideas of Marti and Fidel. We defend, and we will defend, the ideas of Marx, Engels, and Lenin. We will never be lured by the gold of capitalism. We will always be led by the sun of socialism, the socialism we build, the socialism we want, we defend, and that we will defend until the last drop of blood is shed. [applause]

The Cuban revolution was not a gift to us by anyone. We built it, we defend it, and we will always defend it. We have a united people—a party, and a party united to its people. The people and the party united will always guarantee socialism. As long as there is a revolutionary and a Communist alive, socialism will also be alive. [applause] We will never exchange education for prostitution. We will never exchange the health of our people for drugs.

We will never exchange egoism for solidarity. We will never exchange full employment for unemployment. We will never exchange the just equality that unites us for the unjust racism that divides. The people of our capital and of all of Cuba will never be a capitalist country. These are the people of Yara and of Debayle, the people of the Moncada and the Sierra, the people of Giron and of October [reference to the 1962 October missile crisis], the people of Angola and Ethiopia, the people of Marti and of Fidel. [applause]

The imperialists should know once and for all that the Cubans will never betray our history. The Cubans will never betray our dead. Like Fidel said, if the moment demands it, our dead will fight alongside us: [applause] Cespedes, Agramonte, Maceo, Maximo Gomez, and Marti will ride again with the Cuban people into new battles. Camilo and Che will grip our hands against the rifle so that the shot will be more sure and they will be present in any bold assault to eliminate any of the enemy's trenches. As always, Fidel, our unbeaten commander will be beside us, heading all the people to lead us to victory after victory against any imperialist aggression and to lead us today, just as he skillfully leads socialism in our country. Fidel believes in the people and the people believe in Fidel. [applause]

Arrogant Yankees.... [interrupted by chanting, words indistinct] Arrogant Yankees, listen closely! The message from the capital, the first socialist state of the world [as heard], expresses the feelings of the entire Cuban people. If you make a mistake in Cuba, we will fight with all our weapons, which are many; and if they are not enough, we will fight with the weapons we take away from the enemy; and if they are not enough, we will fight tooth and nail! [applause] We will fight until we win or die, and we will win! We are aware here that we defend the Cuban fatherland, that we defend the revolution, and that we defend socialism. We do not have or want to choose between capitalism or socialism. Cuba has only one option: socialism or death! We will defend that option with the people's decision of fatherland or death!

Long live the heroic people of Panama! [Crowd shouts: Viva!] Long live the revolution! [Crowd shouts: Viva!] Long live socialism! [Crowd shouts: Viva!] Long live our party! [Crowd shouts: Viva!] Long live, always, our beloved, unbeaten, invincible commander, Fidel! [Crowd shouts: Viva!] Fatherland or death, we will win! [Crowd shouts: We will win!]

Vilma Espin Comments on Panamanian Situation

FL2212234589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2126 GMT 22 Dec 89

["Exclusive" interview with Vilma Espin, president of Cuban Women's Federation and member of the Politburo, by reporter Juan Carlos Roque Garcia during a special edition of the "Exclusivo" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Espin] It was with deep indignation and grief, a feeling shared by all Cuban women, that we learned about the brutal U.S. intervention in Panama. It was to be expected, of course. The intervention is very much in keeping with the Yankee government's intention of policing the world, of determining the fate of sovereign peoples, and of forcibly imposing its designs.

This hated action, which has once again exposed the fascist nature of the empire, has been a slap in the face and bloody mockery at the international law, at generally accepted principles, and at the sovereignty and integrity of our countries.

For a few months the Panamanian women have called the attention of public opinion in the region, especially of women, to the imminent danger that was threatening their country. They predicted that sooner or later Panama would sustain this brutal blow.

At this tragic moment we cannot fail to think about the Panamanian women, who have time and again reaffirmed their unwavering decision to defend their national integrity at all costs. [passage omitted]

At this time we wish to convey our deep admiration and our solidarity with all Panamanian women, with all Panamanian people. We are following with great respect the reports on the actions the Panamanian people are taking. If you can hear us from there, we want to extend to you the fraternal greetings of the Cuban people, who have expressed their willingness to go to help their Panamanian brothers. [passage omitted]

Commentary Sees Bush as Latin America 'Sheriff'

FL2312030189 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Good evening. The mask of the flamboyant negotiator of peace and human rights on the face of the whole earth has just fallen off, and its true face has been exposed to the massacred Panamanian people and to the world.

The invasion of Panama by the best U.S. troops, that is, NATO elite forces, is a tangible example to contend that Washingtion is not the best guardian of peace in Europe, in Africa, or in Asia, let alone in Central America, where it finances reactionary forces.

In the face of the events we are discussing, we should note that the United States, the most powerful country [words indistinct] contributions to the United Nations. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, the United States can veto any resolution favorable to a Third World country.

It seems as though the admiration professed for western films by his predecessor, Ronald Reagan, has led Bush to seek to appear as the sheriff [preceding word in English] of Latin America and to offer a $1 million bounty for General Noriega, who is portrayed as the bad guy of the film in the script written by the White House chief.

In the face of images like these [video shows scenes of fighting in Panama], which of course do not reflect the magnitude of the events, I believe we cannot believe either the Bush who claims to negotiate peace or the white collar cowboy, who uses the White House as his office of sheriff for Latin America.

Bush has forgotten and that the Latin American people are not playing, but that they are fighting for their independence.

ANPP President Discusses Panamanian Situation

FL2312005889 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0025 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Interview with Severo Aguirre del Cristo, acting president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, ANPP, by Gisela Bel Eredia during special edition of the "Exclusivo" program, place not given—live]

[Text] [Aguirre del Cristo] My opinion is one of true indignation, the same indignation experienced by all Cuban people, and all men of the world who have shame. The aggression of the Yankee imperialists against Panama is an action that clearly shows the fascist ideas of the group that leads the U.S. Government. I would say that at times it gives the impression (?of) the Nazis. It reminds one of the invasions by the Nazis, occupying villages, and the actions were less bloody than the ones the Yankee Marines are carrying out, acting under orders from their government in Panama. That action evokes indignation because it is a dirty trick, in addition to being a filthy crime.

Like our comrade Fidel said, they thought they could take Panama easily. Now they are worried because the Panamanian people, almost unarmed, on unequal terms, is resisting and will continue resisting. They have a certain determination of not surrendering. The search for the Panamanian head of state, General Noriega, house by house search as they are doing now, constitutes a felony. They are hurting and hitting the citizens. They are killing people. They may be even punishing the people who support the sovereignty of Panama, who defend the right of Panama to its canal. This is condemned by the world at the moment. If there are some lukewarm people who have not expressed, or do not want to express their opinion to avoid being put in an awkard position with he enemy [words indistinct] their own fault and they will have to bear the discredit of having supported, or silenced, such a criminal act by the United States.

On the other hand, I believe that the Latin American people, and in general the people of the world, are learning a serious lesson with this. They can see how those who talk about human rights, peace, unmask themselves with their actions. It is not enough to talk about human rights and peace, one must respect those rights. The United States, on the order of its President, is doing just the opposite in Panama right now. That, naturally, is condemned by the whole world.

Internationalists Willing To Fight in Panama

FL2312151889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Over 110 internationalist combatants returned to the fatherland from the People's Republic of Angola last night. They were welcomed at the air terminal by Pedro Ross, secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee; Vice Admiral Aldo Santamaria, vice minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces; and other party leaders.

Pedro Ross and some combatants made remarks for this newscast condemning the brutal imperialist attack on the heroic Panamanian people.

[Begin recording] [Ross] This attack is the most reprehensible, the most despicable and miserable of the actions that can be carried out against a country.

[First unidentified internationalist] We tell the Panamanian people that if they need internationalist aid from the Cubans, we can go as soon as they decide to ask for it. We will fulfill the mission as we have done in Angola.

[Second unidentified internationalist] We can say that we are amazed. This shows that when people organize as they have in Panama, and how all Latin American peoples can organize, they not only can defeat the regimes that oppress them but also the Yankee boot that steps on them and oppress them. We, the internationalist combatants are willing to go from here to our combat units to join in the fight against U.S. imperialism.

[Ross] Here are our internationalists who have said that they are willing to give them what they deserve if they dare to put their dirty boot over here. They [U.S. soldiers] know what to expect because there are people here who have been prepared and ready to repel attacks for some time now.

[Group of internationalists] Wherever, in any way, and for any thing: Commander in Chief, we wait for your orders! Long live the heroic Panamanian people. Viva! [end recording]

Risquet, Komplektov Discuss Socialist Europe

FL2312043589 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, has met with Viktor G. Komplektov, special envoy of the Soviet leadership and Soviet deputy foreign minister and a member of the Central Auditing Commission.

At the meeting, they discussed topics related to the complex current international situation and exchanged views regarding the positions of the Comunist Party of the Soviet Union and of the Communist Party of Cuba on several foreign policy topics, especially the situation in European socialist countries.

The meeting was held in the frank, friendly atmosphere that characterizes Cuban-Soviet relations.

Humanitarian Aid To Be Sent to Romania

FL2512005989 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0032 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] Taking into account the high number of injured people and victims that have been caused by the recent tragic events in Romania, the Cuban Government has sent humanitarian aid to that country. Cuba's contribution consists of 10 metric tons of plasma and other medications, as well as 10 metric tons of food. If the number of victims unfortunately increases, the Cuban Government expressed its willingness to send more plasma and medications to Romania.

Cuba has also offered to provide the International Red Cross with the necessary plasma, medications, surgical teams, and medical staff to assist the Panamanian people, as a result of the invasion of that country by U.S. troops.

Costa Rica

No Recognition of Endara for 'Time Being'

PA2312014289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0052 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 22 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto said today the Costa Rican Government has neither studied the possibility of granting asylum to General Manuel Antonio Noriega nor has that asylum been requested by anyone.

During a short news conference, Madrigal added that for the time being the Costa Rican Government is not going to recognize the new Panamanian Government headed by Guillermo Endara, who was inaugurated as president after the U.S. invasion of Panama.

Madrigal Nieto stated: "Endara does not meet the requirements (up to today) to be recognized" as a legitimate head of government.

Meanwhile, Rafael Angel Calderon, Costa Rican opposition presidential candidate for the upcoming February elections, urged President Oscar Arias to recognize Endara and to make efforts so that other democratic governments of the continent do the same.

Calderon alleges that Endara was democratically elected by the Panamanian people in the 7 May elections that were annulled by the previous regime controlled by Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, then the "strongman" of the country.

Madrigal Tries To Evacuate Citizens From Panama

PA2312143789 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1252 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto has announced that contact has been made with the U.S. Government, through the U.S. ambassador to Costa Rica, to try to make arrangements to bring home the Costa Ricans who are on Panamanian territory. The government is trying to obtain guarantees for their security so that their lives will not be endangered while trying to leave Panama because of the very serious situation in that country. Madrigal Nieto said:

[Begin Madrigal recording] Our charge d'affaires managed to hold a detailed conversation with General Marc Cisneros to try to evacuate the Costa Ricans who are in Panama. According to the charge's report, some 1,200 Costa Ricans have been located at different sites. Each of these Costa Ricans has been asked to make a list of Costa Rican citizens at their location, and the Embassy is picking up the lists.

According to the charge, he managed to make arrangements with General Cisneros for the U.S. forces to open up an airport for the airplane or airplanes that would be sent from Costa Rica to evacuate the Costa Ricans. The charge explained that arrangements for the evacuation are being made, and that priority would be given to women and children.

The second major obstacle that had to be overcome was transportation in the city; how to move these people from the various hotels, homes, or places where they have sought refuge, to the airport. This is a major problem because there is still a serious lack of security in Panama City. Heavy fighting is still under way. There are many groups of the Security Battalions [as heard] and in several neighborhoods these so-called battalions are even raiding homes. Pillaging continues as well as heavy shootouts in the streets. Consequently, there is a total lack of security in many sectors of Panama City.

The charge asked me to coordinate all of this with the U.S. Embassy, and we have been doing this from the Foreign Ministry. I have talked to the U.S. ambassador, and the embassy is willing to contact the Southern Command, that is, the occupation forces there, to facilitate the sending of the planes. The ambassador will keep me informed of his efforts to achieve this as soon as possible.

I believe that it is important for this information to become known so that their relatives can be prepared to help us evacuate their loved ones so that they can return to the country as soon as possible. [end recording]

The foreign minister said that, according to the information he has received from our charge d'affaires in Panama, the problem of transferring the Costa Ricans from all these different locations to the airport is very difficult because there is no security whatsoever. On this topic Foreign Minister Madrigal said:

[Begin Madrigal recording] The charge d'affaires, Mr. Montes de Oca, told me that the situation is difficult, particularly the transfer of these people from the different locations to the airport, because there is no security whatsoever. As a matter of fact, it was very difficult for him to go to and from the Southern Command, and he ran very serious risks because of the lack of security. [end recording]

Group 'Ready' for Evacuation

PA2212154689 Paris AFP in Spanish 1337 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 22 Dec (AFP)—On the night of 21 December, approximately 20 Panama Defense Forces [FDP] members burned a large number of documents at the FDP barracks located at Paso Canoas, on the border with Costa Rica, and then took to the mountains, it was reported at the place.

Local residents told AFP that from the Costa Rican side it was possible to see the smoke rising from the barracks, abandoned by the Panamanian soldiers, who apparently headed for the mountains.

Nevertheless, no clashes between U.S. forces and troops loyal to General Manuel Antonio Noriega have taken place so far in the border area.

Although there is calm at the border, Costa Rican authorities prohibited their nationals from going into Panama "as long as the climate of uncertainty prevails" in this neighboring nation, invaded by U.S. troops the night of 19 December.

Several Mexican reporters, who on 21 December passed by the Panamanian border checkpoint at Paso Canoas, where there are two immigration officials, were detained and later robbed by Panamanian paramilitary men, the reporters told the press.

Several groups of reporters, who have been trying to drive into Panama since 20 December because all flights to and from Panama have been canceled, are still at the border.

Members of the Costa Rican National Emergency Commission and the National Refugees Directorate have reported that 27 Panamanian women and children entered Costa Rica and requested protection on 21 December.

Manuel Obando, coordinator of the National Emergency Commission, said that this organization is ready to receive approximately 10,000 people. Obando said that for that purpose the commission has established reception posts in Sabalito, Paso Canoas and Sixaoala along the border with Panama.

In addition, there is great concern in Costa Rica regarding the 700 Costa Rican citizens trapped in Panama and who have been unable to get out as a result of the U.S. invasion.

Authorities Cooperate on Border

PA2312210789 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1834 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 23 Dec (DPA)—The border between Costa Rica and Panama has been calm for the past 12 hours and the authorities of the new Panamanian Government are in control in the area.

Commercial activities returned to normal this morning (Central American time). Panamanian soldiers are providing every assistance to Costa Ricans to cross the border to purchase Christmas articles in Panama.

The Costa Rican Civil Guard and Panamanian police are coordinating the immigration procedures for thousands of Costa Ricans who had travelled to David, Chiriqui, over the past few days to return without difficulty.

Some 1,200 Costa Ricans had been trapped in Panama since 19 December. Most of them were in David, while others were in Panama City, including a junior league football team that had gone to play against Panamanian teams.

Pilot Arrested by Noriega in Panama Returns

PA2612002189 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2036 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] San Jose, 25 Dec. (DPA)—Ney Escobar, the Costa Rican pilot who had been in prison in Panama on Noriega's orders, returned to Costa Rica today.

Escobar was arrested about 3 weeks ago when the helicopter in which he was flying had engine trouble and crashed in Panamanian territory near the Panama Canal Zone. General Noriega accused Escobar of espionage and ordered him held at the City Jail, from which he was freed by U.S. soldiers on 20 December.

Escobar said on arriving: "I was not, repeat not, tortured. However, I was questioned at length, because they seemed very nervous and believed that I was really a spy."

He said: "I am happy to return to Costa Rica. I was in danger when the invasion took place, and at one time the U.S. soldiers thought I was a Panamanian officer."

Ney Escobar met with Public Security Minister Hernan Garron, who praised the cooperation he received from the U.S Southern Command.

El Salvador

New Panama Envoy To Arrive in 'Next Few Days'

PY2412005989 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 23 Dec 89 p 5

[Text] The Salvadoran Government has recognized the new Panamanian Government headed by Guillermo Endara and will send a new ambassador to Panama in the next few days, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Pacas Castro has announced.

El Salvador had suspended relations with the now overthrown Noriega regime and withdrawn its ambassador from Panama, only leaving a consular representative in that country.

Pacas Castro pointed out that the Panamanian people elected Guillermo Endara in the 7 May elections, but General Manuel Antonio Noriega annulled those elections.

The statements made by Pacas Castro are similar to those made by Roberto Castaneda, Salvadoran representative to the United Nations, who announced that his government "unreservedly" recognized Guillermo Endara as president of Panama.

Regarding the Panamanian crisis, Castaneda said that the Salvadoran Government expresses its solidarity with the Panamanian people's right to democratically elect their governors.

Press on Reaction to U.S. Invasion in Panama

PY2212130689

[Editorial Report] San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish on 21 December 1989 publishes page 7 a 700-word editorial entitled "It is Not an Intervention but the Rescue of a People," in which the U.S. action in Panama is defended and Noriega's regime is described as "delinquent." The editorial nonetheless warns that the attack against Noriega "could well be the beginning of eventual actions against Ortega and Castro." The editorial also criticizes the ineffectiveness of the international organizations in helping solve this kind of conflict. It states: "There are no international organizations that may impartially judge this kind of case, and they do not have the means with which to make their decisions respected." It goes on to say that "in the field of international relations, the law of the jungle prevails, and that law backs the strongest or most daring." The editorial then adds: "If hemispheric organizations like the OAS complied with a small portion of the objective that justifies them, that is to safeguard democracy, human rights, and the peaceful coexistence among peoples, Panama would have not yielded to 'Torrijism' and his 'Norieguist' sequel, that is to a military narco-socialism. Unfortunately, the OAS has become the sounding box of each of its member countries, leading this institution on the path of a serious institutional and moral sclerosis." The editorial ends by stating: "The corresponding thing now is that the United States should not remain in Panama longer than it is necessary to consolidate the legitimate administration of Guillermo Endara."

San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish on page 6 on 20 December publishes a 600-word editorial entitled: "Peace in the Isthmus Threatened by U.S. Aggression," criticizing the U.S. invasion of Panama. "No one will believe that a country is attacked for the purpose of capturing a man for allegedly having committed crimes. The Panamanian problem did not begin with Noriega's coming to power. It began in 1914, when the United States finished building the canal which since then was administered and exploited by the Americans." The editorial adds: "An invasion of Panama to capture a man who has demonstrated having the support of his people and of the Armed Forces is unbelievable.

"The presence of thousands of U.S. soldiers in Panama is a clear aggression against its people, and since the attack is large, the reply will be just as large," the editorial adds, and calls for a quick solution to avoid further bloodshed, since "the continuation of the war in Panama endangers peace in Central America, which is increasingly spilling blood and which feels pessimistic regarding the establishment of peace."

The editorial concludes by saying: "We hope that the Latin American countries and the heads of state of the old world manage to persuade the Americans to give up this military adventure, which has already caused thousands of Latin American deaths.

"The different sectors of U.S. society must also pressure their government to prevent a confrontation in Central America and to suspend its aggression against Panama."

Political Parties Condemn U.S. Intervention

PY2312165889 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 21 Dec 89 p 3

[Text] The Revolutionary National Movement Party has condemned the U.S. military intervention in Panama saying the northern power does not have the right to violate the principle of self-determination.

An official communique of the Social Democratic Party demands the suspension of that military intervention, respect for Panamanian sovereignty, and for the principles of nonintervention and self-determination, recognized by the international community.

"The U.S. Government does not have any legal right to deploy its military troops and murder civilians and soldiers who are defending their fatherland," the communique states.

"No matter who General (Manuel Antonio) Noriega is, Panama is not under U.S. political jurisdiction, and, in accordance with international law, we cannot accept such acts of aggression and force," the communique adds.

FMLN Issues Communique on Year-End Truce

PA2312011489 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0013 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) General Command on 22 December]

[Text] In view of the proximity of year-end festivities, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] reports:

1. That, taking into consideration the profound religious meaning that such festivities have for our people and their need to spend such festivities together with their family in a climate of calm, and to palliate the effects of the war, we decree a truce beginning at 0000 on 23 December until 2400 on 2 January 1990.

2. That we highly appreciate fraternal feelings toward our people and this has prompted the Mexican Goverment to call on the FMLN and Salvadoran Government to call a truce on those dates and to resume the dialogue, a call firmly supported by OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares.

3. That we have begun efforts to obtain and facilitate the mediation of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to resume a real negotiation process to end the war.

4. That we are decreeing a unilateral suspension of offensive actions during the said period, even though the

Armed Forces has clearly never heeded calls for a truce calls or cared about the pain of our people.

5. That we believe it to be our moral duty during these dates, which are universally meaningful, to criticize the inhuman U.S. attitude of taking advantage of the religious fervor and the ebb in news reporting and political activity during these days to launch an invasion of Panama.

Therefore, we call on the international community to demand that the government of Mr Bush call a cease-fire, immediately withdraw his troops, and allow the Panamanians to find political solutions to their problems with full self-determination.

[Signed] FMLN General Command; Commanders Salvador Sanchez Ceren, Shafik Jorge Handal, Francisco Jovel, Eduardo Sancho, and Joaquin Villalobos

[dated] 22 December 1989

Government Suspends Curfew Christmas Eve

PA2312161189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1512 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] San Salvador, 23 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran Government has suspended the 2300 to 0500 curfew implemented throughout the country on 12 November for the night of 24 December.

An official spokesperson said that this measure is aimed at allowing the Salvadoran people to participate in Christmas celebrations. The government spokesperson also expressed President Alfredo Cristiani's appreciation of the "people's support" for the government in light of the guerrilla military offensive.

The curfew was suspended following yesterday's cease-fire announcement by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. The FMLN has declared a unilateral military truce to be implemented today at midnight ending midnight on 2 January.

The Armed Forces ordered the curfew a day after the FMLN launched its bloodiest military offensive against San Salvador and the main cities throughout the country 11 November. The offensive has resulted in more than 5,000 civilian, military, and rebel casualties as well as tens of thousands of persons displaced.

Foreign Minister Asks FMLN To Stop Violence

PY2312160689 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 22 Dec 89 p 31

[Text] Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Pacas Castro has stated: We are waiting for the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] to publicly renounce the use of violence against the people and resume dialogue.

Minister Pacas reiterated that President Cristiani's administration is prepared to seek peace through dialogue as long as the FMLN attitude is sincere and not a tactical ruse, "as was the case in September and October this year, when the commanders sat down to discuss peace while they were preparing for war against the people."

Pacas reported that although President Cristiani did say, before leaving for the summit of Central American presidents, that on 20 December the government could resume talks with the FMLN provided the subversives stopped using violence against the people, "this will be impossible because the FMLN has said nothing to that effect."

It has been reported in San Salvador that subversive commanders met with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez in Caracas on 20 December.

The Salvadoran Foreign Minister stated that "no member of the Government Commission for Dialogue would have been in Caracas yesterday" because the government was waiting for the FMLN to publicly renounce the use of violence against the people.

Santamaria Hopes To Resume FMLN Talks in Jan

PY2312014289 San Salvador SIETE DIAS in Spanish 21 Dec 89 p 5

[Text] Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria, a member of the Government Committee for Dialogue, has said that he hopes that the dialogue process interrupted by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] will resume next January.

He said that the only requirement is that the FMLN cease its terrorist actions and attacks against the civilian population.

Santamaria said that the declaration of San Isidro de Coronado—in which the Central American presidents expressed their support for President Cristiani—states that the Salvadoran Government has asked the United Nations secretary general to mediate and contribute to the resumption of talks, as this is a task of this international organization.

Military Official Reports 'Heavy' FMLN Losses

PY2212220389 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 20 Dec 89 p 2

[Text] Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chief of the Salvadoran Joint Staff, has stated that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] does not have the slightest chance of launching a new offensive because the rank-and-file of this organization are totally demoralized because of the heavy casualties they have taken. He added that these casualties include nine "commanders."

Col Ponce added: "The Armed Forces have defeated the FMLN in the northern zone and in Soyapango, San

Salvador, San Miguel and Morazan, causing in the process over 2,000 casualties including several commanders and mercenaries."

The FMLN has publicly admitted that "commanders" Hernan Solorzano ("Dimas Rodriguez"), Jorge Orlando Sandoval ("Oscar"), Geomar Ari ("Cirilo"), Ovidio Lopez ("Orlando Morales"), and "political officers" Jose Santos Llanes ("Pepe") and Milagros Alvarado ("Judy"), have been killed.

Terrorist leaders Misael Gallardo, Nicolas Alberto Saravia, and Ricardo Miranda have also been killed since the beginning of the failed FMLN offensive on 11 November.

Col Ponce reported that many mercenaries, including some who looked European, died during the clash with the Army in Colonia Escalon. Ponce added that the families of these mercenaries are now inquiring about them in Nicaragua.

Col Ponce believes that the sabotage which the FMLN is carrying out by burning busses, destroying electricity towers, and staging small-scale attacks, are merely the "last kicks" of a drowning person.

Assisted by the Air Force, the Salvadoran Army continues to strike at the few terrorists strongholds in the north, parts of the capital, and other areas in the interior.

Ponce indicated that the FMLN is spreading lies in an attempt to maintain its credibility and to cover up the heavy casualties it has taken. The casualties really number over 2,000 although the FMLN claims only to have lost 400 people.

The official Armed Forces report issued on 30 November states that the FMLN sustained 2,132 killed in action during the offensive while the government lost 476 troops.

Col Ponce added that the investigation continues into the death of four people who died in the crash of a plane bringing arms for the FMLN from Nicaragua. The crash occurred in an isolated area of Usulutan Department.

Until yesterday the FMLN had not admitted that the crew of the plane carrying arms that crashed on 25 September belonged to terrorist groups. According to the FMLN the crew members were Salvadorans.

The terrorists reported that the dead crewmen were Pilot Osvaldo Alfaro Aguinada, also known as "Luis" and "antiaircraft gunners" Romel Hernandez Argueta ("Helo"), Isidro Parada Martinez ("Denis"), and Santiago Rauda Posada ("William").

Col Ponce stated that this "rumor is a communist maneuver to make sure that Daniel Ortega does not get blamed in the light of the international pressure against him because of his subversive campaign in area countries."

Ponce added that the current strategy of the defeated FMLN is limited to talking about false victories to news media that they control so as not to demoralize their rank-and-file; to refuting Army reports; and to disseminating false figures on casualties allegedly inflicted to the Army.

FMLN Attacks Military Academy; No Casualties

PY2212203089 San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish 1215 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] columns have attacked the public security academy, but no casualties have been reported.

On the evening of 20 December, FMLN forces attacked with rifle fire the facilities of the public security academy located at [name indistinct]. The attackers got as close as 300 or 400 meters from the academy facilities. No casualties or damage has been reported, Colonel Rigoberto Soto has said.

[Begin Soto recording] At approximately 1830, we were attacked by terrorists who came down from the volcano. The terrorists were repelled by our forces, which were deployed approximately 300 to 400 meters from the academy. When the terrorists were discovered, they escaped but were pursued by our forces. A 1-hour shoot-out ensued. [end recording]

The military forces were supported by machinegun fire and flares from Air Force units. Col Soto said that there were 30 to 40 attackers; this is a relatively low number of men, and they could not be spotted easily by the military troops because of the topography of the area.

Commander Declares Chalatenango 'Under Control'

PY2212231089 San Salvador TCS Television in Spanish 1215 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Colonel Ciro Lopez Roque, commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade headquartered in Chalatenango, has stated that Chalatenango Department, one of the zones in the country that is persistently attacked by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front], is practically under Army control.

Regarding the conflict in the country, the military garrisons in Chalatenango have been the targets of strong attacks by FMLN forces. The FMLN is persistently active in this zone, and military positions in populated areas in this department have also been targetted. However, military sources today stated that the zones considered to be the focus of rebellion and insurgence are under control.

There have been reports on some 30 battles over the past few days, a fact that has been confirmed by Colonel Ciro Lopez Roque, commander of the 4th military region.

[Begin Lopez recording] The 4th military region, headquartered in Chalatenango Department, has reported on

military actions during the month of November, the beginning of the so-called decisive offensive of the FMLN. We have reported some 30 battles, confrontations with the terrorists in this department. The balance is in our favor. There have been some 37 terrorists killed and 47 injured. We have seized a large number of rifles, explosives, grenade launchers, and mortars.

On 12 November the 4th brigade was attacked, namely Military Detachment 1 [DM-1] and the Refugio Military Base. Here we seized some 30 mortars, and at DM-1 we seized some 49 grenade launchers.... [end recording]

Civic activities in the departmental towns, during which the children are given toys, etc., are developing normally. [passage omitted]

Thousands of Salvadorans Call for Peace 20 Dec

PA2212235989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0107 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Thousands of Salvadorans called for peace today in a pilgrimage held in San Salvador. The pilgrimage was attended by President Alfredo Cristiani, government officials, opposition politicians, religious officials, and other guests.

The persons who organized the "Pilgrimage for Peace and Liberty" have calculated that approximately 50,000 persons were present at the "Jose Simeon Canas" Plaza, in the center of San Salvador, where Cristiani called for people's unity so that "there is peace and hate ends."

Thousands of Salvadorans, from San Salvador and other regions in the country, started to fill the plaza at 1000. They waved blue and white flags and shouted: "We want peace. Viva El Salvador. Here are the people looking for peace."

People attending the event also held posters with different messages regarding peace and a halt to the war in the country.

The pilgrimage was held in front of the Interior Mministry, from where a large, vertical, blue, white, and blue Salvadoran flag was hanging, and where Cristiani arrived in the midst of strict security measures. Sharpshooters and soldiers with all types of light and heavy weapons were observed in the buildings and streets close to the plaza. To ensure security, the streets surrounding the plaza have been closed since 19 December.

Children released doves that symbolized peace in front of the main platform. The event started with the Salvadoran national anthem and ended with a prayer read by San Salvador Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez. Some of the people attending the ceremony joined hands to ask that the war in the country end and dialogue between the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and the Government be renewed.

The pilgrimage was organized by the government with the purpose of finding mechanisms to attain peace in the wake of the FMLN offensive on 11 December.

Alleged Terrorists Detained at Mariona Jail

PY2512174689 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 23 Dec 89 p 5

[Text] Carlos Ernesto Carbonell Morales, the son of former Minister Jose A. Morales Ehrlich; and Vinicio Penate, an important leader of the Democratic Nationalist Union (UDN), are under arrest at Mariona Prison.

The National Police recently arrested both individuals and placed them at the disposal of a military court under charges of subversive and terrorist activities.

Almost at the end of the day on 20 December, police placed the two at the disposal of the First Instance Military Court. Both individuals were then taken to Mariona Prison.

It was reported that only Carbonell Morales was able to testify. Because of the Christmas holiday the judge was unable to rule on their case, and the two were taken to Mariona Prison.

The police report says that Morales Carbonell, 30, alias "Tato" was arrested in the San Mateo neighborhood of this capital while receiving medical treatment.

Carbonell is thought to be the commander of the subversive group Popular Liberation Armed Forces (FAPL-FPL) and has allegedly collected money in foreign countries for the campaign of the FMLN [Faraundo Marti Liberation Front] campaign and for other activities.

Guatemala

Cerezo Views Future in Light of World Situation

PA2412174889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1615 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Dec (ACAN - EFE)—Guatemalan Christian Democratic President Vinicio Cerezo today called the Guatemalan people to "think" during Christmas about the Panamanian, Salvadoran, and Romanian people, who are experiencing a "difficult" situation.

During a message delivered through a national network, Cerezo said that "Christmas is a special time to sit around with the family and reflect upon the future and the goals one wishes to attain."

President Cerezo said: "I would like to reflect with you, because when one takes a look around the world, one sees the great difficulties many countries have been experiencing to achieve and build democracy."

Cerezo mentioned the case of Romania, where workers who were demonstrating to demand wage increases and

a democratizing process were shot by security forces resulting in thousands of dead and wounded.

Cerezo also talked about the crisis Panama is currently experiencing and said that now the "Panamanian people are going to have a very sad Christmas and will face many difficulties to get food."

President Cerezo stressed that "problems should be solved through dialogue, that war should be avoided and that Guatemala must prevent disaster from reaching the country, as has happened in other nations."

Cerezo admitted that Guatemala is paying a high price to solve its economic situation, but he stressed that all the nations of the world had to pay high prices to be able to make progress.

Cerezo stressed that "Japan, which is one of the most developed countries in the world, experienced a world war. Germany also experienced difficult times and learned the lesson that the war did not bring any benefits to them."

Cerezo said that the 4 years of his government, which was inaugurated in January 1986, "have been truly interesting." He said that he has faced problems and that he has been criticized, but he added that the crisis, however, is being solved through dialogue.

President Cerezo added that the economic measures adopted by his government have increased the cost of living. Cerezo said that Guatemala is one of the three Latin American countries that have registered economic growth, because there are more businesses, stores, and employment here.

Foreign Minister Comments on Panama Situation

PY2212212689 Guatemala EL GRAFICO in Spanish 22 Dec 89 p 4

[Text] In remarks to the media, Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera has said that the Panamanian problem is the result of General Manuel Antonio Noriega's decision to ignore the people's decision in the elections. This decision was to elect candidate Guillermo Endara president.

He said Noriega's decision and actions ignoring the fundamental principles of the democratic system have led to this critical situation for the Panamanian people.

Rivera added that this has also affected Latin America because some of these actions have set a very negative precedent.

He also pointed out that Guatemala believes the Panamanian people can still find a solution to their problems through dialogue and communication.

He added that Guatamala hopes this situation will not last any longer and that the battles will end soon.

The Foreign Minister concluded by saying that Guatemala is waiting for further reports as developments regarding the activities of the government that has been sworn in are not yet clear.

The Guatemalan Government cannot decide on a position until the situation is clear, he said.

He concluded Guatemala cannot accept the fact of the domestic problems of a country being solved through the intervention of others. A solution to this problem at the international level cannot be found through the use of force and violence.

Comments Further on Panama

PA2212222989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2140 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera Irias today said that General Manuel Antonio Noriega is "to blame" for the current conflict in Panama because he refused to accept the people's will in the annulled May elections.

Rivera Irias said that Noriega's attitude, his actions, and his lack of respect for the basic principles of the democratic system have brought the Panamanian people to this "critical" situation.

According to the Catholic Church and the Panamanian opposition, presidential candidate Guillermo Endara won the May 1989 elections, but the electoral tribunal annulled the elections, claiming that "irregularities" had taken place.

The United States staged a military intervention in Panama on Wednesday night [20 December] [as received] to "apprehend" General Noriega, but up until now it has not achieved this objective. The United States charges that Gen Noriega is involved in international drug trafficking.

According to several sources, the U.S. intervention has resulted in more than 100 dead and dozens of wounded, including civilians and soldiers, from the two countries.

The foreign minister said that the Guatemalan Government headed by Christian Democrat Vinicio Cerezo has not yet taken a position regarding the Panamanian crisis because it is waiting for the situation to clear up.

Government Condemns Murder of Nicaraguan Diplomat

PY2212214089 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 22 Dec 89 p 5

[Text] The Government of the Republic of Guatemala yesterday strongly condemned the murder of Jorge Adolfo Vargas Gonzalez, second secretary of the Nicaraguan Embassy in Guatemala. Vargas was murdered yesterday morning in Zone 10 of this capital. Claudia

Arenas, public relations secretary of the Presidency, has said that "this is a regrettable act that we strongly condemn."

She added that "during a talk with Interior Minister Carlos A. Morales Villatoro, it was reported that an investigation of the murder was immediately ordered to uncover the murderers, arrest them, and bring them to court."

The government spokesperson added that "the government of the Republic deeply regrets that this violent action has taken place against a member of the diplomatic corps accredited to our country."

The murdered diplomat, Jorge Adolfo Vargas Gonzalez, was the second secretary of the Nicaraguan Embassy in Guatemala.

Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera this morning also condemned the murder of the second secretary of the Nicaraguan Embassy in Guatemala, Jorge Adolfo Vargas Gonzalez.

Envoy Blames Lax Security

PY2212220489 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 22 Dec 89 p 6

[Excerpt] Nicaraguan Ambassador to Guatemala Ricardo Jose Sambrana Diaz has strongly condemned the murder of his second secretary, Jorge Vargas Gonzalez, and blamed the state for the lack of guarantees.

The Sandinist ambassador told reporters that this is a regrettable action and took advantage of the opportunity to request more protection to enable him and his colleagues to carry out their missions.

Sambrana said that he was blaming the state for this murder because of a lack of security. [passage omitted]

Three Peace Brigade Members Attacked, Stabbed

PY2312020989 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 22 Dec 89, p 6

[Text] Three members of the International Peace Brigades [Brigadas de Paz Internacionales] assigned to Guatemala were attacked yesterday by alleged criminals who stabbed them near the their brigade headquarters on Mariscal Street in this capital.

According to authorities from the International Peace Brigades, the victims were two Canadian women and an American male citizen.

The report states that the three members were returning to their headquarters when they were intercepted and attacked by two young men who stabbed them. The aggressors first stabbed the two women in the chest, causing deep wounds. The American man tried to defend the two women but he suffered cuts on his hands and wrists, and around his waist.

The International Peace Brigades in Guatemala report states:

We consider the attack on our members an act of intimidation against this organization and the humanitarian task it carries out in Guatemala. The aggressors did not ask for money or try to steal anything from the three victims. During the attack the women dropped their purses and the attackers did not try to steal them.

We consider that this is another attack in the escalation of violence to intimidate the International Peace Brigades, whose personnel have been receiving death threats since May. Two grenades were hurled at the organization's headquarters in August.

The International Peace Brigades is an international organization that promotes the theory and practice of non-violence, seeking peace through non-violent means. This peace involves negotiation, dialogue, and other non-violent methods.

The International Peace Brigades do not interfere in Guatemalan domestic affairs or in the activities of any Guatemalan organization. They only give humanitarian help and maintain an independent attitude.

Honduras

Azcona Interviewed on Situation in Panama

PA2312060089 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 0435 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Interview with President Jose Azcona by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Azcona] We have been clear. We do not approve of the military intervention in Panama at all. We understand—we have said this before and our position at the OAS was clear—that dictator Noriega had stepped on the Panamanian people's rights. Elections were held in Panama, and he did not recognize its results. Some presidential candidates were even outraged. We, however, do not justify an armed intervention or a U.S. invasion of Panama even if it is conducted to eliminate the evil that Noriega represented or still represents for Panama. The worst thing is that Panamanian civilians have suffered very much due to this intervention.

[Reporter] When will Honduras make a statement before international organizations regarding the Panamanian situation?

[Azcona] Honduras will attend the OAS meeting. I am not sure whether the OAS meeting was held today or not. We, however, are not a member of the UN Security Council. Our position will be clear. Noriega was a serious evil for Panama and for the development of democracy in Latin America, but his ousting, however, does not justify an invasion of Panama.

The worst thing is that this invasion has lasted 36 hours already and the more time that goes by, the more

difficult it becomes for the United States to solve the situation, because it risks becoming an occupation army. That will deteriorate the U.S. image.

[Reporter] Mr President, with the invasion of Panama, has the United States violated the TIAR [Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty] and the principle of the people's right to self-determination?

[Azcona] Of course. Panamanian sovereignty was violated the moment foreign armed troops entered Panama. Whether we like it or not, that foreign Army is intervening in a country's internal affairs and is occupying that country's territory. It is an occupation army. That cannot be denied.

Obviously, Panama's situation and Noriega had reached the extreme. Noriega was obtaining more power. Panama was a country under Noriega's regime, under a very firm, strong, hard, and very antidemocratic dictatorship. We, however, do not justify the U.S. intervention in Panama.

We believe Mr Endara's government will have many difficulties in being recognized by the Latin American countries and by the countries of the world.

[Reporter] Will you recognize Endara's government?

[Azcona] We have not discussed that yet. We will wait and see how the situation develops in Panama. I believe Endara won the 7 May elections in Panama, but unfortunately power was not turned over to him. The way in which he has obtained the Presidency is very weak. We have to wait and see how he will finally receive the country's Presidency.

I believe the OAS must strongly intervene in Panama now and call for elections as soon as possible under the supervision of the OAS and of all the international organizations that could help in that cause. The U.S. troops must leave Panamanian territory as soon as possible, because in my opinion they may have fallen into a trap that Noriega himself could have set them up for. They have fallen into that trap, which is only discrediting the United States right now.

[Reporter] Could the death of civilians cause serious problems for President Endara?

[Azcona] As I told you before, President Endara has obtained the Presidency with very little authority. It would have been a different story if the 3 October coup had been successful and if Endara had been called to assume the Presidency.

An amazing thing is that the communique issued on 3 October did not say that Endara was going to be called to occupy the Presidency, but that they were going to call for new elections. Now, Endara has assumed the Presidency as a result of foreign intervention.

All of this is very delicate. I believe there is a great loser in this whole situation, the United States. The United States is losing even more than Noriega is, because he was completely discredited already, and he had nothing to lose. The only thing he could lose is his life, and he had been condemned already. It seems to me that the United States is the great loser in this intervention.

[Reporter] Mr President, do you think that as a result of the situation in Panama, Central America could become another Vietnam and that the United States could also prepare an invasion of Nicaragua?

[Azcona] No, I do not think so. Panama and Nicaragua are two different things. Nicaragua is about to hold elections. Elections in Nicaragua include both positive and negative aspects. One positive aspect is that the elections could be handled with more freedom and honesty. The elections could also bring a hardening of the Sandinist government if it believes that if Mrs Violeta Chamorro or if the Sandinists win, the Sandinist triumph is not recognized. [sentence as heard]

I believe there can be both negative and positive aspects as a result of the Nicaraguan elections. I believe the best thing would be for the elections not to have any consequences at all and that the problem is finally solved through the political solution we are all yearning for.

[Reporter] In your opinion, what was the mechanism that should have been used to do away with Noriega?

[Azcona] I believe the best way was the one implemented on 3 October, but unfortunately it failed. We do not know who is responsible for that failure. That action took the life of some Panama Defense Forces officers. I believe that should have been a more drastic action. I believe the problem in Panama should have been solved domestically. It was thought that the problem could have been solved in that way.

Azcona on Recognizing Endara, Palmerola Base

PY2312193289 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Report on interview with President Jose Azcona by Julio Armando Valdez; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Valdez] President Azcona repeated yesterday that he cannot justify the U.S. attack on Panama. I deplore it because the attack is not justifiable; the big loser in this conflict is the U.S. Government, he said.

On whether the U.S. Government asked him to recognize the administration of Guillermo Endara, Azcona said:

[Begin recording] [Azcona] It was not that direct. I spoke to the U.S. vice president yesterday morning, after he had tried to contact me the day before. We spoke at 0900 yesterday. The vice president explained why they had intervened in Panama, and I listened to their reasons. That was all.

[Valdez] It was said yesterday, Mr President, that the U.S. Army used Palmerola Military Base on 20 December to mobilize men and weapons for the attack on Panama.

[Azcona] That is not true. Palmerola was not used in the attack on Panama. Armed Forces sources have already made this clear. This morning I spoke to the general [not further identified] and asked him to again release a communique, with more details, explaining that the Palmerola base was not used for the attack on Panama. The article published by the media today stating that U.S. troops used the base is not correct. What is being planned now is [words indistinct] troops are [words indistinct], and that the people can seek refuge in the base in case [words indistinct] is not correct either. I do not believe this will help the Honduran people much, because these distorted rumors [words indistinct] this country.

[Valdez] Now that the principle of self-determination has been violated, do you think El Salvador and Nicaragua face the same future?

[Azcona] El Salvador is fighting guerrillas, and the Salvadoran Government has very good relations with the United States. I do not believe that such an attack could occur in El Salvador.

In Nicaragua, the situation is also different. There is no canal in Nicaragua, there is no established U.S. command there. In Panama, all one has to do is to go across the street and one is already intervening in Panama. The situations are quite different, and I do not believe any comparison can be made. Things in Panama are quite different.

[Valdez] Do you share the opinion expressed by the Honduran leftist sectors regarding the situation in Panama?

[Azcona] It is not only the leftist sectors that are rejecting this situation. I do not support it, either. I do not believe this situation can be justified. International rejection is strong. We did not condemn Noriega, either. I do not justify the U.S. intervention in Panama. I deplore it and believe that the U.S. troops should leave the country as soon as possible. As I said yesterday, after 36 hours had elapsed, and say again today, after more than 50 hours: The U.S. attitude toward Panama is becoming an example of occupation. This is even more dangerous, because the people may begin to react and more problems will be created. I believe that, if Noriega still has not been caught [words indistinct] if they cannot find him, because a country cannot be destroyed just to try to catch one person—no matter how undesirable that person may be. I am not defending Noriega; it is very much the opposite.

[Valdez] The U.S. actions in Panama, so far, can be qualified as a failure for U.S. policy.

[Azcona] I said in a radio interview yesterday that, without taking into consideration the loss of human lives, of civilians, the [word indistinct] of the defense and the lives of U.S. military, in general terms, the United States has lost [word indistinct].

[Valdez] The recent events in Panama will affect the peace-seeking process in Central America and the demobilization of the contra forces.

[Azcona] As I have already said, we cannot compare the two situations. But these events will certainly affect the two processes because we are very close. Central America is very sensitive to events in Panama. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Contreras Comments on Panama

PY2212211289 Tegucigalpa La Voz de Honduras in Spanish 1145 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Report by Lucia Alvarado; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras yesterday lamented the fact that the forceful U.S. action in Panama involved a violation of the principle of nonintervention. He admitted, however, that the situation in Panama also violated the principle of self-determination for the Panamanian people. Lopez Contreras added:

[Lopez Contreras] "We held the consistent position at the consultation meeting that, together with the principle of nonintervention, the principle of self-determination of peoples must also be strictly respected. The clearest expression of the principle of self-determination is the people's sovereign will, as expressed at the ballot box.

[Alvarado] "Does this mean that Honduras is criticizing the U.S. attitude?

[Lopez Contreras] "We have said that we lament that that forceful action involved a violation of the principle of nonintervention. However, we also recognize that the situation in Panama was a violation of the principle of self-determination for the Panamanian people."

Regarding U.S. President George Bush's statement that the invasion of U.S. troops in Panama is a just action, Lopez Contreras said:

"We are not assessing it as just or unjust. What we do see is that on 7 May there were elections that were described as legal but were totally ignored. This actually gave rise to the consultation meeting.

Now then, we do not want to make any statement at this moment because although the presidential ticket sworn in 30 hours ago is said to be legal, we want to be sure that it will also have effective jurisdiction over Panamanian territory."

The foreign minister was asked whether this Honduran position means that Honduras will not recognize the new government as long as U.S. troops are in Panama.

[Lopez Contreras] "We prefer not to get involved in the problem of recognition or nonrecognition. We rather

prefer to maintain relations with that state as soon as legitimacy and effectiveness exist.

[Alvarado] "Thus far, Honduras has maintained a minimal diplomatic mission in that country. Will you maintain diplomatic relations with Panama?

[Lopez Contreras] "We are expecting a sign of effectiveness and legitimacy.

[Alvarado] "What kind of sign, Mr Foreign Minister?

[Lopez Contreras] "When the government headed by Mr Endara is recognized by the majority and can exert control throughout the national territory."

Honduran Reaction to U.S. Intervention in Panama

PY2212112489

[Editorial report] Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish on 21 December publishes an editorial entitled "Fight to the Death in Panama," regretting "the open intervention of the U.S. troops quartered in the Canal Zone" of Panama. The editorial gives an account of the outrages committed by General Noriega and the history of Panama, including some ideas of the liberator Simon Bolivar. The editorial adds: "We do not fully support this U.S. intervention in Panama, but we also do not ignore the illegality prevailing in the country under Noriega's boot." It adds: "The Panamanian people must exercise their full autonomy, without being subjected to any world power or to its own Army, as has happened to them." The editorial conludes by stating: "It is painful to admit that nothing was done to stop the arrogant military man who has violated all the rights of the Panamanian people."

San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish on 21 December publishes an editorial entitled "The Liberation of Panama," a generally favorable commentary on the U.S. action in Panama. The editorial states: "The United States decided to take the expected step and put an end—by military means—to the tyrany of Manuel Noriega in Panama." The editorial then gives the background and the reasons for the U.S. action, the reaction of the international community, and the legal pitfalls. In conclusion, the editorial says: "By toppling a criminal from the top of his totalitarian and corrupt power, the U.S. action is an act for moral welfare that should be applauded by the international community. All the Latin American democratic leaders—in private—agree with this act, though they do not say so. Strength at the service of justice is not only legitimate but liberating. We are happy that the President elected by the Panamanians now occupies the office that the people gave him."

San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish on 21 December publishes an editorial entitled "The U.S. Aggression Against Panama Weakens the Inter-American System." The editorial criticizes the "invasion, carried out with heavy fire and with a large number of casualties," and adds that "it is a repugnant violation of international law and American law, which consecrate the principles of nonintervention and the peaceful solution to the controversies among the states." The editorial goes on to say: "As far as we know, no one has authorized the United States to establish itself as the guarantor of the self-determination of the Latin American peoples or the architect of the internal democracy of the countries on the continent." It adds that Noriega's dictatorship cannot be defended, that ruthlessness cannot be approved, and that Noriega's actions have been condemned. It concludes by stating: "We believe that the position of the Honduran Government, justifying the U.S. aggression against Panama, is shameful. This position in no way represents a fair interpretation of the sentiment of the Honduran people, especially now that Honduras has become a U.S. military base and a platform for aggression against our neighbors, as in the case of Panama."

Contra Commanders Seeking Return to Nicaragua

PY2312203689 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 23 Dec 89 p 3

[Text] Several "contra" commanders went to the Nicaraguan Embassy in Honduras today to ask Nicaragua for documents that will allow the commanders to return to Nicaragua at the beginning of January, according to Commander "Johnson."

The rebels, who are hoping to participate in the Nicaraguan political process, also demanded that Nicaraguan officials provide them with guarantees that they will not be interrogated, held, arrested, jailed, or harassed upon their arrival in Nicaragua.

The following contra commanders went to the Nicaraguan Embassy in Tegucigalpa: Luis Adan Fley (Commander "Johnson"), Franklin Javier Mercado Matus, Bayardo de Jesus Garcia, Luis Raul Sandoval Perez, Morris de Jesus Cruz, Francisco Javier Alanis, Darwin A. Mairena, Luis Emilio Betanco Chavez, and Pedro Jorge Romero Cruz. Thus, nine commanders have given up the armed struggle against the Sandinists.

The most well-known commander to leave the ranks of the Nicaraguan Resistance is Commander "Johnson," who was the military prosecutor of the "contras" and a close aide to Colonel Enrique Bermudez Varela, top leader of the anti-Sandinist forces.

The "contra" commanders reportedly sent a letter to the International Commission for Support and Verification (CIAV), which is in charge of coordinating the demobilization of the "contras." This commission is made up of Hugo de Zelada of the OAS and Alvaro Soto of the United Nations. The commanders asked them to act as "guarantors" before the Sandinist authorities to make sure that they get the documents that will allow them to go to Nicaragua and, once they get there, that they will not be harassed or arrested.

There have been reports recently of friction among the leaders of the "contras"; it has also been said that the

United States is applying pressure to replace Bermudez with Commander "Mack" as leader of the "contras." However, Bermudez himself has denied the existence of any disagreements within his organization and has emphasized that he will remain as head of the "contra" army.

Electoral Court Declares Callejas President

PA2412011089 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2047 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 23 Dec (DPA)—In a report on the recent 26 November elections, the Honduran Electoral Court (TNE) declared Rafael Leonardo Callejas, opposition candidate of the National Party of Honduras [PNH], president-elect.

The TNE reported on a national radio and television network that the votes were cast as follows: 45,453 for the Christian Democratic Party, 33,951 for the Social Democratic Innovation and Unity Party, 776,983 for the ruling Liberal Party of Honduras, and 917,168 for the opposition National Party of Honduras [PNH].

In the 26 November elections, three presidential designates were also elected, as were 128 deputies to the National Congress, municipal authorities in 289 municipalities, and 20 deputies to represent Honduras in the Central American Parliament.

Country Seen as Drug Trafficking Bridge to U.S.

PA2312221689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1837 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 17 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Political spokesmen have reported that the drug trafficking business has left approximately $12 billion in Honduras during the present decade and has converted the country into a bridge for the shipment of drugs to the United States.

The sources asserted that a "Medellin Cartel" advance team arrived in Honduras in the seventies and said that the persons who had started the illegal business in the country were Honduran Ramon Matta and Colombians Bernardo Londono and Alex Oliva.

None of these persons has any pending trials related to drug trafficking in Honduras and have always denied the charges. In April 1988, Matta was arrested in Honduras and taken to the United States, where he is still in prison for his alleged links to drug trafficking.

Carlos Sosa, a social democrat who coordinates the Special Drug Traffic Investigation Commission (CEIN), commented that "undoubtedly, a band of international criminals has found fertile grounds in Honduras for several years."

The drug traffickers did not see a cocaine-producing potential in Honduras but did see it as the perfect springboard to get the drug from South American producers to North American consumers.

Honduras has 112,088 sq km and an average population density of 30 persons per km. It is located almost mid-way between Colombia and the United States.

The sources added that in addition to its attractive geographic position, Honduras has an extensive Atlantic coast with little surveillance, approximately 200 clandestine airports on the mainland, and key domestic sectors that are permeable to corruption.

According to Sosa, the drug traffickers have used Honduras for the transfer of drugs from ships to quicker, smaller craft, as a point where planes are resupplied, and to deposit cocaine shipments that are repackaged and later sent to the United States.

He added that drug traffickers have taken advantage of trade facilities offered by the United States to Honduras, and they have sent drugs in shipments of articles made out of wood or in banana shipments.

A CEIN report indicates that "drug traffickers try to become friends of military commanders. They propose business partnerships with them, they obtain credentials as collaborators of the security corps, and even get their wives to make false friendships with the officers' wives."

President Jose Azcona commented this week that "in all parts of the world, drug traffickers try to become friends of those who have some power to be able to carry out their activities."

In its first report, CEIN linked Tania Regalada, daughter of Armed Forces Commander General Humberto Regalado, to drug trafficking. She has rejected these charges that originated from testimony by her uncle, Colonel Rigoberto Regalado, who was sentenced to 10 years in a U.S. prison for attempting to bring 11 kilos of cocaine to the country through Miami airport.

Nicaragua

Daniel Ortega Addresses National Assembly

PA2212110889 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2320 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega at the Nicaraguan National Assembly in Managua—live]

[Text] Good evening friends, comrades, and representatives of the Nicaraguan National Assembly; members of the diplomatic corps; local and foreign correspondents; special guests: A short time ago, this afternoon, I talked on the telephone with our ambassador to Panama, our comrade Antenor Ferrey. I asked him what the situation was around the Nicaraguan Embassy in Panama City. He told me that he had toured the city and found that there were many Panamanians looting stores. He also told me he saw U.S. troops and heard the sounds of U.S. bombing coming from some areas of Panama City. He said that he had seen some Panama Defense Forces [FDP] contingents being deployed throughout Panama

City to defend the Panamanian people's sovereignty and self-determination. Ambassador Ferrey said that he had talked with several Panamanians and found that they are very angry because of the aggression the United States has launched against that brother country.

He continued to tell me that he then headed for his residence, and it was there that he learned that at 0900 the embassy had been surrounded by U.S. troops and armored personnel carriers. The comrade ambassador said that he immediately sent his driver to the embassy with food and that he had no idea how the U.S. troops surrounding the Nicaraguan Embassy in Panama would react. He added that the main access to the Nicaraguan Embassy in Panama City had been blocked with an armored personnel carrier.

I immediately called the comrades who are inside the embassy. They told me that the comrade driver Comrade Ferrey had sent had arrived. They explained that he had been detained for 30 minutes by the U.S. troops. I asked whether he had been searched and was told that he had not been searched. I was told that the North Americans—an officer with a Puerto Rican accent—asked him where he was headed. He explained he was attached to the Nicaraguan Embassy in Panama. The officer told him to wait, went away and consulted with someone, and then returned. He asked the comrade driver who was inside the embassy. The driver told him that embassy personnel were inside. The officer then asked him if there were children inside; however, the driver could not give him details regarding how many people were inside the embassy or who they were. The officer told him that if there were children inside the embassy, he should bring them to the windows. The comrade then told the officer that he did not have to bring anyone to the window. Finally, and after being detained for 30 minutes, he was allowed to enter.

I again called Ambassador Ferrey, who was still at his residence. I told him to go to the embassy and take charge. I asked him if they had enough weapons at the embassy, and he told me they had a few. I told him to draft a defense plan and that they were not to allow U.S. troops inside the embassy because this would be the same as allowing U.S. troops to enter Nicaraguan territory. I told him that we would fight to the end, and we would not allow Yankee troops on that little piece of Nicaraguan territory, our embassy in Panama City.

After Comrade Ferrey arrived at the embassy, he called me to let me know that he had been able to get in without problems. He said that when his car drove up, the armored personnel carrier was moved, and he was allowed in. He said that perhaps our telephone conversations had had some effect on this—these calls are being monitored by the North Americans—and added that they were in combat readiness and had issued a communique they wanted to be made known to the Nicaraguan people and the international community. In the communique, they express their determination to keep the invading troops in Panama from invading Nicaraguan territory.

I immediately contacted Foreign Minister D'Escoto and asked him to call the U.S. representative in Managua, and I ordered the defense minister to adopt similar measures against the U.S. Embassy in Managua. The U.S. representative in Managua, Leonard, was advised of our decision. We stressed to Leonard that the Yankee government was violating international law; not only was it violating Panamanian territory but also threatening Nicaraguan territory by surrounding the Nicaraguan Embassy in Panama with troops and armored personnel carriers.

Foreign Minister D'Escoto reported to me on the measures taken, that is, deploying armored personnel carriers and troops around the U.S. Embassy in Managua as a reciprocal measure. We have proceeded to do this. We have stationed armored personnel carriers and Sandinist troops around the U.S. Embassy. Later I heard of a statement by President Bush during a news conference. A reporter asked him about the ring that U.S. troops had deployed around the Nicaraguan Embassy in Panama City. President Bush, lying as U.S. leaders usually do and misinformed as U.S. leaders often are, said that no U.S. troops were encircling the Nicaraguan Embassy in Panama City. They are now saying that all they have there are soldiers, but I am confirming at this time that U.S. armored personnel carriers and troops are still around the Nicaraguan Embassy in Panama.

As the U.S. Government has been informed, the Nicaraguan Government will not tolerate any type of aggression against its diplomatic mission in Panama. Early on the morning of 20 December, U.S. authorities sent us a message in which, among other things, we were informed that the United States would not threaten the security of Nicaraguan diplomatic personnel in Panama. It was the morning of the invasion, and since midnight I had been with the defense and foreign ministers, adopting all measures the situation warranted, when we received this message from the U.S. Government.

However, the attitude displayed by the U.S. Government today casts total doubt on what we were told the morning of 20 December regarding the security of Nicaraguan diplomatic personnel in Panama. As the president of Nicaragua and the signatory of a peace agreement, I have adopted a very responsible approach to the situation in Panama. I have approached the situation with the responsibility of a president and signatory of a peace agreement; in other words, with the resolve to not make things worse and to not allow the sovereignty and dignity of the Latin American people to be violated by U.S. aggression, the U.S. armed invasion of Panama, or threats against Nicaragua.

At exactly 2100, a few hours before the invasion started, I was meeting with the defense minister analyzing the

situation in Panama. We contacted our embassy in Panama. There were a series of signals that clearly showed that the invasion of Panama was coming, although the Yankee government, as it usually does when it prepares dirty blows like this, denied up to the last minute that an invasion, an intervention against Panama, was being planned.

At 2200 or 2300, when we contacted our embassy personnel in Panama on the 19th, they told us that everything seemed normal in Panama City. We were told that thousands of citizens were shopping. There were Panamanians and citizens from other countries. There were even many Nicaraguan citizens and Central Americans. We were told that some streets had been blocked off because of the huge crowd of shoppers that made automobile traffic impossible.

We were told that, on the other hand, they had information from the Defense Forces that they were on maximum alert. They were on a war footing. They were calling the militias to prepare to repel, to resist, a U.S. invasion of Panama.

By that time the U.S. press and television had already reported the sending of planes carrying troops from the United States to Panama. By that time, people in the United States were asking if troops were being sent to Panama. The U.S. officials replied that there was no such operation going on. With this lie, they were trying to cover up their action of international terrorism.

At 0015 Nicaragua time, 0115 Panama time, the invasion took place. Everything indicates that the U.S. plan was to launch a rapid operation, a lightning operation. They expected to murder or to capture General Noriega and to withdraw immediately and leave Mr. Endara in power in Panama.

This lightning operation failed miserably. Early in the morning, when the first official reports were received from the U.S. Government, from the U.S. President, from the U.S. Army high command, it could clearly be seen that they were very worried over the complex situation they had created in Panama. From that moment on, they were worried over the risk of the U.S. troops and U.S. political and military policy being bogged down in Panamanian territory.

The operation started at 0015 Nicaragua time, that means that at 0015 tonight the U.S. invasion of Panamanian soil will be 2 days old.

The U.S. troops, the U.S. plan, failed to divide the Panamanian troops. As of the early morning of 20 December, the confrontation is no longer against Gen Noriega, it is against Gen Noriega, the FDP, and the Panamanian people, against the dignity and sovereignty of the Latin American peoples and against the dignity and firmness of the peoples of the world.

The U.S. invasion of Panama has become a serious destabilization factor not only in the Central American region, not only in Latin America and the Caribbean, but in the world. Now that global progress has been made in favor of an understanding between the powers; now that the United States is determined to raise the banner of the nonuse of force, of dialogue, of negotiation, of democratic strengthening, of allowing countries to do the things they wish; of allowing governments not having to respond to blockade policies—all this while extraordinary agreements have been made in that field [as heard] and the USSR has made considerable strides in that direction, and while a breakthrough has been made in eastern countries and the Berlin Wall is falling—now the Yankee government is determined to maintain the wall of intervention against peoples, against the sovereignty of the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

While the eastern countries criticize the participation of Warsaw Pact troops and tanks in various operations in Czechoslovakia and Hungary, U.S. tanks, planes, artillery, and troops are deployed in a haughty and brutal manner, showing contempt for the trends toward peaceful cooperation that have taken hold in international policy.

This action of force by the Yankee policy in Panama not only undermines those global agreements—the expectations and hopes created among the international community for the peaceful and negotiated solution to conflicts—but also creates difficulties for the efforts the Central American presidents have been making to find a peaceful solution to the conflicts affecting the Central American region, efforts precisely promoted by the U.S. rulers.

The recent agreements reached among the Central American presidents in early December in Costa Rica are being violently trampled on by the Yankee policy. The North American government is openly legalizing the use of force, when it is to their advantage, and trying to make the use of force illegal when it is used for the good of the people, when the peoples use it to defend their self-determination, independence, and sovereignty.

The allegedly democratizing action, the Yankee invasion against the small Republic of Panama—country with a little more than 2 million inhabitants and a small army of approximately 15,000 soldiers and a few thousand militiamen—is not having the expected results.

The Yankee invasion of Panama has provoked chaos therea; it has created insecurity for all the social and economic sectors in Panama; generalized looting is going on in Panama City. This U.S. interventionist action has endangered the right to life and safety of the Panamanian people. The Panamanian people,the unarmed men, women, children, old people, youths, workers, and civilians, are the first victims of the Yankee government's interventionist action. If the United States had hoped to divide the Panamanian army and only fight against Gen Noriega, the current situation is only proving that the so-called Yankee battle against Gen Noriega was not really a battle against Gen Noriega, but rather a battle

against the sovereignty of the Panamanian people. This is the only way to explain the tenacious and heroic resistance the people, the FDP, and Gen Noriega are putting up against the interventionist action of the U.S. troops.

All the U.S. might has been concentrated in this act of state terrorism against the Panamanian people and nation. The U.S. Air Force is bombing, destroying, and killing the Panamanian people. The U.S. soldiers are an instrument in that terrorist policy against the Panamanians. The Yankee government is censoring the U.S. press so that it will not report on the truth of what is happening in Panama. They call themselves defenders of freedom of expression, yet a little while ago, precisely a few minutes before I came here, the U.S. television was showing the video of Sandinist tanks surrounding the U.S. Embassy in Nicaragua. At the same time the newscaster was explaining that the videos they had of the U.S. tanks surrounding the Nicaraguan Embassy in Panama could not be shown because these were grabbed by the U.S. troops surrounding the Nicaraguan Embassy in Panama City. The U.S. troops grabbed the videos from the reporters who were filming the incident. That is what the so much talked about freedom of expression in the United States is all about.

The Yankee invasion of Panama has completely discredited Mr. Endara. He had his views and political positions, but now that he is involved with the Yankee troops, the Yankee tanks, in the genocide against the Panamanian people, in the barbaric actions against the Panamanian people, he has lost all of his political and moral authority to rule, or aspirations of ruling Panama.

The Yankee invasion has been unanimously rejected by the people of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the international community. The OAS and United Nations are debating the issue, and the international community agrees that the Yankee government should be instructed to immediately withdraw its troops from Panamanian territory.

The peaceful solution of conflicts has been unfolding throughout the world: Soviet troops have been withdrawn from Afghanistan; Cuban troops have been withdrawn from Angola; Vietnamese troops have been withdrawn from Cambodia; progress has been made toward the solution of Namibia's problem; progress has been made toward holding a meeting to solve the Palestinian issue; a negotiated solution is being sought for the Saharan people; and an effort is being made in favor of a negotiated solution to the Central American conflicts, those conflicts which the United States has created against Nicaragua and El Salvador where the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has constantly stated its resolve to initiate a real dialogue aimed at peacefully ending the conflict. Meanwhile, the Yankee government emerges as the troglodyte with a club in the midst of a children's party, destroying, shattering, crushing, and trampling. This, of course, is being rejected by the international community.

The U.S. Government has not limited its actions to tarnishing the Panamanian people's sovereignty; it is also threatening the Nicaraguan people's sovereignty by surrounding the Nicaraguan Embassy in Panama with its troops and tanks. The order has been given. Our comrades at the Nicaraguan Embassy in Panama will not allow the U.S. troops to penetrate even an inch into that Nicaraguan territory. As we have already said, if the U.S. Government withdraws its armored vehicles and troops that currently surround the Nicaraguan Embassy in Panama, then we will do the same here in Nicaragua. I have tried to act with the greatest calm during these complex and difficult moments.

On the day of the invasion I was considering the implementation of a state of emergency throughout the nation because the Nicaraguan people definitely cannot trust the Yankees' word. Who would have imagined a few days ago that this U.S. invasion in Panama would take place? Nicaragua's diplomatic contacts have been in constant contact with countries that maintain good relations with the United States and with countries that do not. Their assessment of the situation indicated that there would be no question of a U.S. invasion of Panama, that an invasion was no longer possible, and that in any case, thought would have to be given to another type of peaceful, negotiated solution in Panama. Gen Noriega, the members of the FDP, and the Panamanian people had agreed to this.

Everyone believed that the time of intervention had ended. Everyone believed that the history of Yankee troops invading the Dominican Republic, Grenada, or Nicaragua had ended. Everyone thought that the history of Yankee troops invading Vietnam was over. However, reality shows us the contrary, reality shows us that you cannot trust the Yankees.

If we are going to act responsibly, if I, as president of the Nicaraguan people, must guarantee the defense of the sovereignty, self-determination, and independence of this country, then I cannot trust the Yankee's word nor the Yankee's promises to other countries that it will not carry out a military intervention in Nicaragua. It is my duty to guarantee, above all, the defense of Nicaragua. It is my duty to guarantee Nicaragua's military and political defense. From this position, I must then look for an understanding, a negotiated solution with the U.S. rulers. However, we cannot be naive and think that if we disarm ourselves we will guarantee Nicaragua's sovereignty, self-determination, and independence. That is what the Yankee's want. That is what the Yankees have wanted throughout these 10 years of aggression against Nicaragua. That is what the traitors would like to see happen; that is what those who are willing to sell the homeland, the UNO [National Opposition Union] members who have spoken in favor of a Yankee invasion, would like to see happen.

I cannot look the other way and ignore the attitude assumed by those who are not acting like Nicaraguans. This is not the time to hoist partisan banners, it is the

time to hoist national banners; it is the time to hoist the banners of dignity, it is the time to raise Sandino's flag, the red and black flag, and defend Nicaragua's blue and white flag. It is the time to act as we did in the past century when we confronted the Yankee invasion. At that time liberals and conservatives set aside their partisan attitudes and joined the fight against the Yankee aggressor. That is the call I am making. I am calling on all Nicaraguans to set aside their political and ideological positions. You are with Nicaragua or against Nicaragua; you are with Latin America or against Latin America; you are for independence, sovereignty, and self-determination of our country, or you are a traitor siding with the Yankee invader. The people are the ones judging in this historic moment. Those who think that the Nicaraguan leaders, the Nicaraguan president, will be frightened by the terrorist action taken by the Yankee government in Panama are quite mistaken. Quite the contrary, we must have patience, I must have holy patience to respond, in a calm but firm manner, to those actions aimed at trampling the dignity of our people.

Early this morning, I seriously contemplated the idea of implementing a state of emergency in Nicaragua. Then I told myself: Well, after all, it is only a confrontation with the Yankees, and I hope that all the political parties and forces in Nicaragua will react with a sense of patriotism. I then decided to place the Sandinist People's Army on a maximum state of alert and deploy our forces throughout the country; place the Interior Ministry forces on a maximum state of alert; place the Supreme Council for the Defense of Peace on a maximum state of alert; and place the emergency Cabinet on a maximum state of alert.

When I heard today of the Yankee government's attitude of besieging our embassy with its troops and tanks, I only knew that I could not let this excess against Nicaragua go by. Sandinist tanks and troops will surround the Yankee embassy as long as the Yankee troops and tanks surround the Nicaraguan Embassy in Panama. I will not hesitate to defend our fatherland's integrity and sovereignty. If the Yankees want to extend the conflict to the entire region, we are here, prepared to confront and defeat them.

If in Panama, which has a small army and a few militia, the Yankees with all their might have not yet controlled the situation, as they say, and they are finding themselves behaving increasingly like military occupation forces—they no longer talk of spending a few hours or 2 days in Panama, but of staying there indefinitely—there is no question of what would await the Yankee troops if they dared to invade Nicaraguan territory.

The Yankees have not invaded Nicaragua but not because they are goodhearted or because of Nicaragua's effective international diplomatic policy; they have not invaded Nicaragua because of the courage and strength of the Nicaraguan people. They know that we are an armed people, they know that we are 500,000 armed Nicaraguans willing to point our rifles at the Yankee invader and determined not give them a moment's peace until they have been expelled from our country, until they have ceased in their attempt to invade our country. For this, and no other reason, the Yankees have not invaded Nicaragua.

In this time of tragedy for Latin America—the Yankees have plunged a knife into the backs of the Latin American people—in this hour of tragedy for the international community—the Yankees have plunged a knife into the backs of all the countries of the world that had placed their hopes in a future of detente and peace—on behalf of the Nicaraguan people, on behalf of the Nicaraguan Government, on behalf of the Latin American people and the people of the world, I demand the immediate withdrawal of the Yankee troops from Panama. [applause]

At this time the U.S. leaders alone have the last word if they are to recover from a blow that, by itself, has left a wound that will not heal easily. At this time when the international community is anxious to find a prompt, immediate solution to the warlike escalation of state terrorism that the U.S. Government has unleashed in Panama, what the U.S. Government has to do is to heed the clamor of the people and governments worldwide that are demanding the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Panama.

From this tribune where today we are closing the fifth legislative session of the National Assembly, I appeal to all Nicaraguans—without regard for ideological, political, or religious differences—to join our hands, to join our fists, and to unite our consciences to repudiate this abominable incident, this abominable incident of the U.S. invasion of Panama; to not allow incidents of this type to occur in any nation of the world; and to not allow incidents of this type to occur in our fatherland.

In this Central American region in the year 1927, that is, 72 years ago, the Yankees invaded Nicaragua. Seventy-two years after that Yankee invasion—which gave rise to the heroic resistance of Sandino and the withdrawal of Yankee troops in 1932—a Yankee invasion of Panama has taken place on our Central American isthmus.

Today, like yesterday, we Nicaraguans are compelled to act firmly, forcefully, and with patriotism. Sandino's example has to be kept in mind by each and every one of us. That is why, at this historic moment, I invite all Nicaraguans, all true Nicaraguans, to join this great crusade for the defense of the self-determination, independence, and sovereignty of our fatherland. Only in that way will we be guaranteeing the minimum conditions for this electoral process that all Nicaraguans have been pursuing.

Only with that spirit, determination and vocation, will we be able to successfully culminate our election process with the elections on 25 February 1990. If we want to defend democracy in Nicaragua; if we want to strengthen democracy in Nicaragua; and if we want to defend the

election process in Nicaragua, we are forced to defend our homeland's sovereignty, independence, and self-determination.

God and our people are the great judges who will give recognition to those of us who have acted properly and as Nicaraguans. God and the people are the great judges who will condemn through history those who are betraying the homeland, peace, and democracy at this critical time. Thank you very much. [applause]

President Ortega Gives Speech in Chinandega

PA2412015689 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2330 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega at Los Cachorros Square in Chinandega—live]

[Text] Good afternoon, Nicaraguan brothers. I address you as president of the Republic of Nicaragua; I address you as president of a forever free, independent, and sovereign Nicaragua—ever since 19 July 1979. [applause]

I address you from this land of volcanos and cotton; from this land of fire, fighting, and love; from this heroic land of Chinandega, Nicaragua, Central America, Latin America, and the free and independent world. [applause]

On 20 December, when it was 0015 in Nicaragua, U.S. Army troops once more invaded Central American territory, Latin American territory. They invaded the Republic of Panama. [Shouts of "Panama, Panama, Panama!" heard in the background] The Panamanian people and the Panama Defense Forces did not receive the Yankee troops with applause and kisses when they brutally invaded their country. They received the Yankee troops by resisting with heroism, fighting with courage, struggling with firmness—like worthy sons of Torrijos, Bolivar, Sandino, Panama, and Latin America! [applause]

When the Yankees launched this interventionist action against the people of Panama, they thought that in 4 hours they would eliminate all types of resistance from the Panamanian people and the Panama Defense Forces; that they would eliminate, or assassinate General Noriega in 4 hours; this would then make it easy for them to entertain their troops after carrying out a plan aimed at striking against the integrity, sovereignty, and self-determination not only of Panama, but also of the Latin American people and the world's people. However, the Yankees were wrong in their estimates. First of all, they could not scare or subjugate the Panamanian people even though they used all their espionage methods, their air force, their tanks, and thousands of soldiers.

And on this very day, we can hear the rifles thunder in Panama in defense of Panamanian sovereignty. [applause] [Crowd shouts indistinct slogans] When the Yankees, when Yankee imperialism began this cowardly action against the Panamanian people, they clashed with the firmness of the Panamanian people and soldiers; with Gen Noriega's firmness; with the firmness of the peoples of the world, who unanimously condemn the Yankee invasion of Panama and demand the immediate withdrawal of the Yankee troops from Panama. [applause]

Who authorized the Yankees to invade Panama? Who? [Crowd shouts: Nobody!] Who asked the Yankees to invade Panama? [Crowd shouts: Nobody!] If nobody asked the Yankees to invade Panama, why did they invade Panama in clear disrespect for the peoples of the world and for international legal order? The imperialist policy has been repudiated.

Bush first said that the operation was going to be very quick and that the soldiers would withdraw a few hours after the beginning of the operation. He made that statement early in the morning on 20 December. On that very morning and as the president of the Nicaraguan people, I ordered our defense system, the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], the Interior Ministry, and the Nicaraguan state, to be in a state of general alert to face any Yankee aggression against our homeland. [applause]

Then the Yankees said that the problem in Panama would be solved the day after the beginning of the operation. On 21 December, however, the Yankees continued shooting and bombing the Panamanian people. On 22 December, the Yankees continued bombing, murdering, and imprisoning the Panamanian people.

In a display of arrogance, the Yankees deployed their tanks to surround the Nicaraguan Embassy in Panama, that is, Nicaraguan territory in Panama. Our reply came swiftly. I immediately ordered the Sandinist People's Army to deploy Army tanks around the Yankee Embassy in Managua. [applause, indistinct slogans]

We advised the U.S. Government that we would do exactly as they did against our embassy. They withdrew tanks and left troops; we withdrew tanks and left troops. Afterward, the tanks returned the evening of 22 December, and we did just that on that very evening. [applause, indistinct slogans].

They withdrew their tanks, and we withdrew ours. We had troops patrolling around the Yankee embassy in Managua, and the invading Yankees had troops patrolling around the Nicaraguan Embassy in Panama.

Our ambassador, Comrade Antenor Ferrey, and members of our embassy in Panama assumed high combat readiness and were ready to prevent the Yankees from trampling our sacred territory in Panama. [applause]

The world has strived for people to achieve peace; everybody is striving to achieve peace; all of humanity wants peace. The Yankees themselves have talked about peace. However, now that Christmas winds are blowing the spirit of peace toward us, the Yankees come out with their tanks, cannons, and planes to stain with blood the

Panamanians' Christmas; to stain with blood the Nicaraguan people's Christmas; to stain with blood the Christmas of the free peoples of the world, of Latin America, and the U.S. people themselves who cannot agree with this kind of criminal actions.

With his criminal policy, Bush is not risking his neck or his family's neck, but he is risking the lives of U.S. youths who have begun to return to the United States in plastic bags after falling in combat on Panamanian territory. Therefore, Bush is not only responsible for the death and murder of Panamanian people, but also for the death of U.S. youths, whom he has sent to kill in an unjust action against the Panamanian people. Therefore, he has sent them to die in this unjust action against the Panamanian people. The Panamanian people, assisted by their historic right and duty, are repelling this aggression with firmness, determination, dignity, and courage.

The OAS was convoked, and the United States is a member of the OAS. At the OAS a resolution was discussed in depth; however, the Yankees did not want the OAS to condemn the invasion; the Yankees did not want the OAS to demand the withdrawal of the Yankee troops from Panama. The Yankees tried to use some governments to achieve their goal, but they failed. The OAS resolution was approved, and it has demanded that the Yankee government withdraw the invading troops from Panama. The Nicaraguan Government and the people of Nicaragua, this afternoon represented by the heroic forces of Chinandega, support this resolution. [applause]

This U.S. Government action must be repudiated by the entire international community because the United States is acting against the historic process happening around the world. The world is renouncing the use of force, the powers are renouncing their bloc policies, the powers are renouncing their hegemonist policies, but the United States refuses to renounce their crazy, criminal, and costly actions aimed against the Latin American peoples.

The Yankees did not get the support of the peoples of the world for this criminal action. For this criminal action, the Yankees only had the support of those who do not think like Latin Americans in Latin America. Here in Nicaragua we repudiate the attitude assumed by some politicians, those who are at the head of that organization formed by the Yankees, who are happy for the Yankee invasion of Panama. In Nicaragua, the only ones who can be happy with a Yankee invasion of Panama are...? Who are they? [Crowd shouts UNO! (National Opposition Union)] Who are they? [Crowd's response indistinct] Who are they? [Crowd's response indistinct] And the GN [National Guard] newspaper clearly stated this; they have stated their position. It is not a patriotic position, it is an antipatriotic position. In short, what they are doing is fulfilling their role of agent of the Yankee empire. They would like the Yankees to do the same here in Nicaragua as they have done in Panama, where they invaded the country to try and impose Endara's government. They would like the Yankees to invade us with tanks, planes, and forces and put them in power in Nicaragua. However, they have not realized that they would burn their backsides [applause] because they would be sitting on top of the Yankee's smoking tank.

Here in Nicaragua, the people's resistance would destroy the Yankee tanks as it would defeat and crush the Yankee invasion [applause] [Crowd shouts indistinct slogans]. The Panamanian army is very small. It has approximately 15,000 soldiers. The militia is relatively small. It has approximately 10,000 militia men. In Nicaragua, however, we have many more soldiers. In Panama, given the restrictions imposed on the Panamanian people and the Panamanian sovereignty, and the Yankee occupation of the canal zone for many years, the Panamanian army has had limitations; and it lacks antiaircraft weapons, artillery weapons, and cannons. It only has rifles and pistols. However, in Nicaragua, where we ended the Yankee impositions on 19 July 1979; where we ended the Yankee occupation, represented by Somoza, on 19 July 1979; we do not have 15,000 soldiers or 10 militia members. Instead, we have more than 3 million Nicaraguans ready to pick up the rifles to defend the homeland! [applause, shouts]

When Nicaragua defended its right to arm itself and defended against an eventual Yankee invasion, it was not done because we have a warmongering policy. We did it because we know what kind of enemy we have in front of us—a cowardly enemy, a treasonous enemy, an enemy that says it will not do this, yet it stabs you in the back, like it has done in Panama. It is an enemy that swears that it will not invade any country, yet it invades Grenada and Panama, and it perpetrates all kinds of injustices throughout the world. It is an enemy that has invaded Nicaragua on many occasions; an enemy that invaded Nicaragua in 1927 and encountered Sandino's resistance - and had to leave, defeated, in January 1932 after coming face to face with Sandino's heroic fighters! [applause, shouts]

Nicaragua has defended its right to arm itself to guarantee the homeland's sovereignty and those who want to see Nicaragua disarmed are turncoats and traitors. Do you think that Nicaragua can be disarmed under these circumstances? [Crowd shouts: No!]

Can we give up our rifles? [Crowd shouts: No!] Or are we going to take hold of our rifles more firmly? [Crowd shouts: Yes!] We must grab our rifles more firmly as one single army, as the Nicaraguan people have always done through all these years during which we have faced Reagan's mecernaries and the mercenaries of U.S. imperialism. The Nicaraguan people are also willing to face the U.S. troops if they dare invade our country or our territory.

Here, the U.S. troops will meet the volcanic fire of the Chinandega people. They will meet the volcanic fire of

the Nicaraguan people, who will know how to [word indistinct] the invaders who dare step on our territory.

The Yankee invasion of Panama began at midnight on 20 December. The invasion continued on 21-22 December. Today is 23 December, Christmas is almost here, and the invasion is the Christmas gift that the Yankee government gave to the Panamanian and the U.S. people. The Yankee government is giving pain, mourning, and suffering to the Panamanian and U.S. families. The Panamanian people are dying, but the U.S. youths are also dying in Panama.

Some U.S. soldiers with twisted minds are also getting killed, as an ACAN-EFE report stated. I was reading an ACAN-EFE report today. The reporter in Panama was recounting something that had happened to him when the Yankee invasion began. He went up to two Yankees who insulted him, because they did not recognize him as a reporter. One of the Yankee soldiers told the ACAN-EFE reporter that they were going to kick the Panamanian people's ass. The soldier left with his rifle to continue the aggression against the Panamanian people. As he walked away, he made vulgar and crude statements against the Panamanian people. He then repeated that they were going to kick the Panamanian people's ass.

Half an hour after this incident, when the reporters were covering the clashes, the ACAN-EFE reporter met the soldier who was accompanying the other soldier who had made the vulgar statements. The reporter asked where his companion was, and he answered: He just died in a confrontation with the Panamanian troops. [applause]

In other words, it is not so easy to kick the ass of the Latin American people. It is not so easy to kick the ass of the Panamanian people, because in fact, the Yankee empire can get its ass kicked. [applause]

The Yankees had said that they would solve the situation in 4 hours. What happened was looting throughout Panama because the people are hungry; they have their needs. They are looting all the stores, they are looting homes, they are looting everything. The Yankees took chaos to Panama, the Yankees took instability to Panama, to Central America, and also to Latin America. People are protesting throughout Latin America against the Yankee intervention in Panama. The Yankees went to Panama for a few hours, and they are militarily and politically getting bogged down in Panama. December 20, 21, 22, and 23 have gone by, and the Yankee government now says that they may have to stay in Panama for some time. They have no longer set a deadline to withdraw the Yankee troops from Panama.

Are we, the Central American governments and peoples who say that we are against the use of force, going to tolerate the Yankee government doing whatever it pleases in Panama? [Crowd shouts: No!] Will the peoples and governments of Latin America and the Caribbean who say they are against the use of violence and force, who say they are in favor on international law, who say they are in favor of a peaceful and negotiated solution to the conflicts, tolerate the Yankees remaining and occupying Panamanian territory? [Crowd shouts: No!] From this heroic land of Chinandega I invite the Latin American governments and peoples to support their words and positions and demand the immediate withdrawal of the Yankee troops from Panama. Likewise, I invite the Latin American and Caribbean governments and peoples to form a single Latin American and Caribbean Army to defend Latin America's dignity and sovereignty that is being trampled in Panama. [applause]

When the Yankees launch these invasions they say they are doing it to protect the sovereignty of their people, but what they mean by sovereignty is something absurd. When the Yankees invade people, like they are doing now in Panama, they say they do it to protect the lives of the American citizens who are being threatened. Well, in Panama there are Nicaraguan and Latin American citizens; do the Latin Americans not have every right to move troops into Panama to protect the lives of the Latin American people who are in Panama? [Crowd shouts: Yes!] Of course we do. These are arguments that must be taken into consideration at times like these. We are not talking about declaring war on the United States, but we are talking about declaring war on the U.S. interventionist policy. We cannot accept, on our continent, we cannot accept, in the world, a country, a power, that acts like the United States is acting, by invading countries when they feel like doing it. That cannot be tolerated by any nation of the world or by any people of the world.

On behalf of the heroic Nicaraguan people, on behalf of the Latin American peoples, on behalf of the peoples of the world, today, 23 December, from Chinandega, Nicaragua tells my Panamanian brothers: Resist. We are with you. International solidarity and the peoples of the world are with you. We are firmly taking hold of our rifles at this time of heroism, firmness, and dignity for Latin America and the world.

Long live the Panamanian people. [Crowd shouts: Viva!] Let us defend the Panamanian flag. Let us hoist the Panamanian flag, which is the Latin American flag, on which the invading Yankees are trying to step. Let us hoist Sandino's red and black flag and Nicaragua's blue and white flag along with the Panamanian flag.

Let us lift our hearts, firmness, courage, and heroism along with the Panamanian flag. Let us offer the blood of our heroes and martyrs to the Panamanian flag. Let us offer the heroism of the Nicaraguan mothers to the Panamanian flag. Let us hoist Simon Bolivar's flag along with the Panamanian flag and let us swear: Free fatherland, [Crowd answers: Or death!] Free fatherland, [Crowd answers: Or death!] Free fatherland, [Crowd answers: Or death!] [applause]

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Komplektov Visits

PA2212133889 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Viktor Komplektov, Soviet deputy foreign minister for Latin America, has arrived from Cuba and has met with President Daniel Ortega to discuss the true nature of the conflict created by the U.S. aggression against Panama.

Komplektov is influenced by the world interest in the armed intervention in a sovereign country. In the name of his government, people, and party, he condemned the state terrorism action against Panama. He is trying to become acquainted with the regional situation.

Communique Issued

PA2312181989 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23 Dec 89 p 5

["Press communique" issued on 22 December in Managua]

[Text] On 21 December, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, president of the Republic of Nicaragua, welcomed special Soviet leadership representative Viktor Komplektov, the Soviet deputy minister of foreign affairs, who was paying a visit.

During the meeting, they discussed the grave situation facing Central America in the wake of the brutal invasion of U.S. troops into the Republic of Panama, shamefully violating the basic principles of the UN Charter and the norms regulating relations between states.

In view of this action, which threatens and jeopardizes the region's peace-seeking efforts and Nicaraguan state security, the USSR expresses its categorical support for the Nicaraguan Government's praiseworthy efforts to achieve absolute peace in Nicaragua and to contribute to the region's stabilization. These efforts are reflected in measures adopted by Nicaragua at home and abroad.

The USSR recognizes the significant efforts being made by Nicaragua to hold honest elections, and stated its belief that the presence of international organizations is irrefutable proof that the Nicaraguan Government will hold completely free elections. Therefore, the USSR urges the United States to refrain from disturbing the electoral process and to respect and recognize its outcome.

The USSR expresses its support for the Esquipulas II accord and subsequent accords signed by the five Central American presidents, because they constitute very important contributions toward achieving regional peace. Nicaragua and the USSR underscore the important contributions resulting from the recent signing of the San Isidro de Coronado declaration in Costa Rica.

They urge all parties involved to comply with the commitments made.

During the talks, they pointed out the important role that the United Nations and its secretary general could play in the solution of the Central American conflict.

The USSR reaffirmed the firm support that it has been giving to Nicaragua at all levels, stating this cooperation, which is in keeping with the situation, will require new guidelines, especially in the area of social-economic development.

Nicaragua pointed out the importance to world peace of the Malta summit and the constructive initiatives submitted by Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev.

The talks took place amid a climate of mutual understanding and were characterized by the constructive discussion of various issues. Others who participated in the talks were, for Nicaragua: Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco, Nicaraguan Ambassador to the USSR Comrade Ernesto Castillo, and other officials; and for the USSR: Soviet Ambassador to Nicaragua Valeriy Nikolayenko and other officials of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Managua, Nicaragua, 22 December 1989

Foreign Minister D'Escoto Holds News Conference

PA2212182289 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Dec 89

[News conference by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto with unidentified reporters and moderator the Foreign Ministry in Managua—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [D'Escoto] .... by the United States of America against neighboring Panama in violation of the most basic rules of civilized coexistence among sovereign states.

Last night, or rather very early yesterday morning, not tonight but the night before last, at 0400 Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco met with John Leonard, U.S. charge d'affaires in Nicaragua, and Mr Leonard said that the United States would not adopt any measure that would jeopardize the security of Nicaragua's diplomatic personnel in Panama. Nevertheless, at 1000 Panama time today, and 0900 Managua time, our embassy in Panama was besieged, surrounded by a company that had M-113 armored transporters, heavy weapons, and hummers, two of which blocked the entrances to the embassy proper and the consulate.

I had just ended a meeting with Mr Leonard, and I told him that we will do exactly the same thing, immediately. I said that we are, have been, and always will be firm defenders of the legal and sovereign equality of all states regardless of their territorial extension or their economic or military power, and that in view of the situation created in Panama by the U.S. troops who are besieging our embassy, we have already ordered that exactly the same thing be done at the U.S. Embassy in Nicaragua, and that any consequence that may result from the U.S. presence at the Nicaraguan Embassy in Panama will be

reflected in a similar action here in Nicaragua. We have requested the immediate withdrawal of that invading, imperialist, U.S. military presence from our embassy in the independent and sovereign Republic of Panama. When they withdraw that apparatus, we will do the same. I hope that the United States will reconsider and dismantle that which indisputably constitutes a serious threat to the embassy. We have practically all of our personnel at the embassy already, but there may be three or four people who are not there yet. Diplomatic and consular personnel are there, and also women and children who are relatives. This is what I wanted to tell you about the conversation I just ended with the U.S. charge d'affaires.

[Reporter] Mr Foreign Minister, I would like to know if Nicaragua fears another type of reprisal from the United States if this measure is adopted.

[D'Escoto] Another type of reprisal?

[Reporter] In response to the [word indistinct], for example.

[D'Escoto] I do not believe they would dare. [Words indistinct] on this occasion they have told us that they are not considering this. However, that is a different story.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[D'Escoto] In the first place he told me that he did not have any news either from U.S. diplomatic authorities in Panama or from his superiors in Washington. He said that he had no information, but that he had heard, just as I and everyone here, through news agencies such as AFP and the different agencies that there is fighting in Panama, and that he would immediately report what I had told him, and also what I told him about the consequences of any other new measure. I told him that the United States should not be confused about Nicaragua. I believe that they know that in Nicaragua, not only rhetorically, but in daily practice, we will defend our sovereignty and independence to the end as essential ingredients for peace with other American countries.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[D'Escoto] Michel who?

[Reporter] [Words indistinct].

[D'Escoto] All I can say is that I never heard his name before. I imagine if he is Noriega's adviser he must be at his side.

[Repoter] [Question indistinct].

[D'Escoto] The interesting thing is that they never even mentioned this or told us the reason through their diplomatic representatives [words indistinct] (?he simply arrived). According to what Mr Leonard said, there are still clashes in Panama City. He said it was more like sporadic shooting here and there and that it could be connected with that. It is not an area where this sort of thing is taking place.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[D'Escoto] I believe it is an intimidating measure. [Words indistinct].

[Reporter] The Costa Rican radio station Radio Impacto reported that the U.S. forces said Noriega was inside the Nicaraguan Embassy.

[D'Escoto] Radio Impacto, is (?not Costa Rican,) it is the contra station, in other words a U.S. station, a station for mercenaries. They can say anything they please. They can even say mass, but that will not make them more believable.

[Reporter] If U.S. diplomatic personnel requested to evacuate the country would you allow them to leave?

[D'Escoto] This is a free country. People arrive and leave as they please. Also, when the situation merits, we expell them. [applause]

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] while entering and leaving the embassy in Panama, and this will hapen with the embassy here?

[D'Escoto] It will be the same. This is a good question; a question I asked myself. It seems that when the comrades felt threatened they did not try this. I have already issued instructions on exactly what to do according to how serious this situation is. If there is any type of blockade at the entrance or exit, for Nicaraguan personnel or any other personnel, we shall do exactly the same. Exactly the same. Unlike other governments who shoot their mouths off with words on sovereignty, on different types of sovereignty—all sovereignties are the same. Whatever they do to us, we shall do the same.

[Reporter] Will the Nicaraguan diplomats in Panama return to their country?

[D'Escoto] No. The Nicaraguan personnel have not requested that anywhere. They did not request it in El Salvador or Honduras. They are very much committed to the cause and have remained there, always receiving instructions from the Foreign Ministry.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[D'Escoto] Well, one never says never. However, I do not know under what conditions. For the time being it is not something being contemplated.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[D'Escoto] Let's get out of here, otherwise we will interrupt something.

[Reporter] Why do you think the U.S. Government cannot [words indistinct]?

[D'Escoto] No, I am not saying they cannot. They can, but it remains to be seen whether they dare. I think they are aware of the consequences. They can, but should not. To dare is something else. They know that [passage indistinct].

[Moderator] [Words indistinct] the Nicaraguan Government does not respond to provocations [words indistinct] the Managua Government and Embassy in Panama City this morning. The news conference now continues.

[D'Escoto] I think he said....[changes thought] Costa Rica's position regarding the principles have always been a little ambiguous. In other words, they burn incense at democracy's altar. Theirs is a very interesting democracy. It bends when it is necessary.

You have already heard the thesis of that Costa Rican archaeological mummy called, ah, he was the foreign minister. What was his name? [Unidentified speaker heard mumbling in the background] No, no, the other one.

[Unidentified speaker] Volio.

[D'Escoto] Volio, Volio, Volio. He invented a theory that international laws....[changes thought] in fact, he says that the measure of the invasion is contrary to the law but, for reasons he explained there, the law does not apply in Panama's case. In other words....[changes thought] it is a very subdued country. It is a country that always makes those types of concessions without realizing it because principles only reach so far, only reach so far [repeats himself]. Then, for the sake of realism, the real politics, they make all kinds of concessions.

[Reporter] Mr Foreign Minister, is Nicaragua willing to grant political asylum to Gen Noriega if he requests it?

[D'Escoto] Well, we should not rush things. If any person from any part of the world requests political asylum, the request will be taken into consideration and studied. I do not think Gen Noriega is the type of person who would request political asylum in any country but....[changes thought] I do not think he would. In any case, referring to political asylum in general, we would obviously be willing to study the case, concerning any person. We would also study the case if Endara or any other U.S. puppet requests it. We would also study it if Bush requests it. [laughter heard in the background]

[Reporter] Foreign Minister, (?has there been) some type of aid on such a short notice from the Nicaraguan Government to the Panamanian Government? Noriega requested all kinds of aid on 21 December. Has some kind of aid been given?

[D'Escoto] Well, I believe that the international community is aware that this is the topic that currently keeps the UN Security Council pretty busy, and that it was the result of Nicaragua's initiative. Nicaragua was the one who, in the early morning hours called for....[corrects himself] requested that a UN Security Council meeting be called. Early on 21 December Ambassador Alejandro Serrano Caldera was the first speaker at the general debate, which continues today, and we will continue to play an important role in the legal-diplomatic struggle currently being waged at the UN Security Council. Nicaragua insists that the U.S. invasion must be clearly condemned, and that the U.S. troops must immediately be withdrawn from Panamanian territory.

We are doing the same at the OAS. This is the time for those who truly believe in sovereignty and in the countries' right to have their sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity respected, to prove it vigorously and clearly.

Here at the OAS, we will not allow some state's cowardice to be camouflaged by the anonymity provided for by resolutions adopted by consensus.

We already presented a draft resolution. Yesterday, as a result of a bureaucratic consideration promoted by the United States, some English-speaking Caribbean countries, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, yes, the four Central American countries and some Caribbean countries—amazingly insisted on the application of procedures that are used in normal situations. The discussion of draft resolutions should be conducted 24 hours after the resolution is formally presented. It is absurd to apply those procedures before a situation of invasion and war. All the Latin American Spanish-speaking states and Brazil supported the thesis advocated by Victoria Castillo, our representative before the OAS. Castillo said that in view of the seriousness of the situation, the OAS had to proceed to the discussions immediately. Most of the countries gathered there supported us. According to OAS norms, however, for that draft resolution to have been discussed yesterday, the proposal had to be supported by ⅔ of the member states, not of those present there. Thus, we will discuss our draft resolution today. We will maintain our position. Some intend to weaken our position, but that will not happen.

We want to ensure that Latin American people know at least how their representatives vote on issues that are so important to their people, such the defense of our sovereignty, territory, and the principle of nonintervention, and right to self-determination. Therefore, we will insist on a nominal vote.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] other kinds of aid such as medicine to Panama?

[D'Escoto] I do not know how much longer will it take for the United States to act prudently. I hope that if this war and aggression continue much longer that there will be an international reaction to which we would add our efforts. For the time being, the goal is to extinguish a fire that is just beginning. Our efforts are mainly directed at extinguishing this fire.

Henceforth, efforts greatly depend on the courage of the Latin American states because we would undoubtedly be better able to defend our rights if we are united. It is

regrettable that alleged democrats are expressing regrets here. This is no time for regrets; it is the time to clearly and flatly condemn, instead of making completely irrelevant arguments that are being apparently made to counterbalance the situation.

They deplore this and that but are saying Noriega this and Noriega that [sentence as heard]. This is an internal issue. It is irrelevant. One must also wonder about the intentions of these Panamanian political leaders and the legal basis of their new alleged status as heads of state that the U.S. Government is recognizing, because these people have already been completely put out of the game, because Panama's Electoral Tribunal had annulled the elections.

Furthermore, at an OAS foreign ministers consultation meeting, which held several sessions—a meeting that should have never taken place—it was clearly stated that one of the goals was to negotiate new elections. Everybody had agreed to comply with the country's laws and the validity of the Electoral Tribunal's annulment of the elections.

It now happens that at a U.S. military base and before a U.S. general, this man is sworn in as president of Panama [chuckles]. What an absurdity. Some here are saying that they might recognize these individuals. This is really tragic. What we need more than ever is unity and courage from all Latin American countries.

[Reporter] What is your assessment of the reaction toward the intervention by the international community in the past 24 hours? Also, to what extent does this intervention, apart from what might happen (?here), change the rules of the game of the Central American peace seeking efforts?

[D'Escoto] Let us highlight the positive. I would say that the Nonaligned Movement's declaration is excellent. This declaration should be reflected in the position that the nonaligned within the council will adopt. Remember that there are currently 7 nonaligned members within the a 15-member council. We are talking about nearly one-half of the council. We might see what happens today. Much will depend on what kind of resolution is adopted.

It must be a firm resolution, but I believe it will be adopted and, obviously, immediately vetoed by the United States—which should not even participate in the voting because it is the most antidemocratic and illegal thing. One cannot be judge and jury in the same case. However, the United States always abuses its right to veto and uses it in a way that was not foreseen when it was created. The United States will veto the resolution in any case, so we are already thinking about what other measures we can adopt to counter this.

I believe that the international community as a whole will clearly state its views. The situation at the OAS is different because the degree of U.S. imperialism's pressures and intimidations is greater. We are saddened by the English-speaking Caribbean nations' reaction. Nicaragua has been a vanguard country in the struggle so that the friendly English-speaking Caribbean nations would become a part of the great Latin America-Caribbean family, but we have seen how they have allowed themselves to be used.

For example, in the Malvinas case, they had no solidarity toward Latin America because they are part of the Commonwealth of nations, and they were fully aligned with the gringos and the UK. Thatcher is the only one, practically the only European head of government, who has fully supported the imperialist invasion against Panama. This apparently includes—not all, but a great part of—the Caribbean states, not to mention the Central Americans. The capacity to influence them is a deplorable disgrace.

The international community is quite large, and I am satisfied with the overall reply; but I am not satisfied with Latin America's reply. I am particularly annoyed about the way in which several of the English-speaking Caribbean states have been reacting, meaning they have assumed a low profile. I am not surprised about the Central American states because this has always been the case.

[Reporter] Foreign Minister, will the Nicaraguan representative at the UN Security Council and the OAS bring up this new provocation of the U.S. Government against the Nicaraguan Government?

[D'Escoto] Look, we have instructed him to report it to the UN and OAS Secretaries General, and the representative will possibly include the information in his speech. He will not only give information on what the U.S. Government is doing; he will also warn that we will always respond to any action against our sovereignty in a corresponding manner. We will do it, and we will stop them.

[Reporter] What measures [words indistinct] Colombia in the Central American negotiation, dialogue, and peace process?

[D'Escoto] I believe that it exerted influence because it is clear that the U.S. imperialism's perversity is unredeemed, and it remains unchanged. Nothing has changed. The time for Yankeestroyka seems to have arrived. It should start in those countries that are now praising the new opportunities arising in East European countries; and which now praise the way in which the Soviet Union supports and applauds other parties' governments in Poland and other places.

The U.S. imperialism continues to impose its solution formulas in the area and to install governments that support U.S. policies even in the most illegal cases—Panama's case, for example. They are obviously trying to break their pledge to implement the Torrijos-Carter treaties. This will have negative effects because the great obstacle which precludes the stability and development of the Latin American nations' economy, democracy,

and their very independence is obviously the United States. The situation has not changed at all.

Some people are now demanding that the time has come for a Yankeestroyka. However, the signals we are getting are quite different: that Monroe is alive and very much enthroned and guiding imperial actions even in present times.

D'Escoto Discusses Panama Situation, OAS

PA2212193889 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1740 GMT 22 Dec 89

[News conference by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto with local and foreign reporters at the Foreign Ministry in Managua—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [D'Escoto] ...as a matter of fact, it was to condemn the intervention, request the withdrawal of foreign troops used for the invasion of Panama, and that the International Red Cross be given every opportunity to help the Panamanian people who have been victims of this recent U.S. military intervention in Latin America. It also expresses support and solidarity for the Panamanian people confronting this situation.

I truly believe that it was another historic resolution. You can just imagine the kind of sales pitch the United States was using to get a vote on something completely different that would justify the intervention, the military armed invasion into Panama. However, the outcome was something totally different, leaving the United States totally isolated. It was the only vote against.

I believe that this has been a very important triumph, and we should all feel proud. This further proves that the OAS, for decades viewed as the United States' ministry of colonies, is changing and is now playing a different role. Of course, this has happened since its secretary general is Javier Perez de Cuellar, excuse me, Secretary Joao Clemente Baena Soares. In addition, I wanted to tell you that as we informed you, and as we informed Mr. John Leonard, charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Managua—we deployed a company around the U.S. Embassy in Managua just as the United States did around our embassy in Panama. They withdrew part of their military contingent, and we did the same here, just as we said we would do. The situation is calmer now.

We hope that listening to the very clear repudiation and condemnation of its interventionist policy, the United States—not one single Latin American country supported the United States by voting against the resolution—will reflect upon the situation and immediately abide by the call made in the resolution urging it to immediately withdraw the invading troops from Panamanian territory. That is in essence what I wanted to tell you. We will now try to answer your questions.

[Reporter] I am Maria del Carmen [words indistinct].

[D'Escoto] [Words indistinct] There were 27. There is almost never more than 27. There are over 30 member states, but only 27 were present. There are some member states that do not have a permanent representative. Some countries have one representative both for the United Nations and the OAS. Some others do not have a representative there. However, most of the member states were present. There were 27.

[Reporter] How will the OAS resolution affect [words indistinct] Endara's government? And what information do you have regarding what is going on at the United Nations regarding this situation?

[D'Escoto] I believe the OAS resolution, which was approved at the OAS headquarters a few hours ago, is very clear. The resolution is a rejection not only of the military intervention and invasion, but also of these governments imposed by the United States. The United States wanted us to condemn certain people in Panama and to say that the situation in Panama had forced the United States to do what it did. The United States wanted us to say that in fulfillment of its obligations [chuckles], the United States had been forced to send these saviors of democracy and to impose a president in Panama. Those plans flatly failed at the OAS.

The whole interventionist plan, including the military invasion and the imposition of a president was condemned. Referring to the other part of your question, about what was taking place at the United Nations, I can tell you that the UN Security Council meeting continues. A procedural problem has been encountered, and there is a dispute about which Panamanian representatives should be recognized because the usual Panamanian representation was not there. I seems that they had already left because....[changes thought] I do not know. They were not there for some reason.

Endara sent someone, and this led to some delay. The United States was clearly interested in vetoing the project, which would strongly and clearly condemn the United States and which will possibly be issued by the UN Security Council. The United States would be abusing its veto right because this would be a violation; yet the United States had plans to veto the resolution and let the matter die.

The United States thought that it would be able to control things at the OAS like on many other occasions. The only thing they have achieved is to delay things longer at the UN Security Council so that the issue is not brought up at the General Assembly—which ends its....[corrects himself] which has ended or is about to end its annual activities at this very moment, meaning Friday at noon. The plan was to bring up the issue at the General Assembly. Everything had been carefully planned, and the whole world would clearly condemn the action.

That matter has been already settled because it was achieved at the OAS. Imagine what could have been achieved at the UN General Assembly. The North Americans could not achieve their goal at the OAS, they

normally manage to intimidate and—through intimidation and threats—influence the way in which some of the members vote.

If they could not achieve this at the OAS, they could hardly have done so at the UN General Assembly. However, like I said, it will not get to the General Assembly because the sessions have already ended. However, the United Nations issued a very outright and clear protest. It was issued by the immense majority of the members states, who expressed their opinion through the resolution issued by the Nonaligned Movement.

[Reporter] I am [name indistinct] from REUTER. As Nicaragua has already withdrawn its armored vehicles from the U.S. Embassy here, does that mean that the United States has withdrawn its vehicles from the Nicaraguan Embassy in Panama?

[D'Escoto] Quite the opposite, when they withdrew, we withdrew.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[D'Escoto] Of course, that is why. We withdrew because they withdrew; we were not going to withdraw unless they did so first.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[D'Escoto] Which are the countries that you say abstained?

[Reporter] Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

[D'Escoto] That is right. It is true. However, the important thing is that these countries did not join the United States. They abstained. These countries are particularly susceptible to pressure from the United States. Venezuela also abstained. Five countries abstained. There were 21 votes for and 5 abstentions, which were the four Central American countries that the reporter mentioned and Venezuela, and only 1 vote against. That means the complete isolation of the United States in a resolution that clearly, emphatically, and categorically condemns the armed invasion against a country of the Central American-Caribbean community. Besides, the resolution asks for the immediate withdrawal of the invading troops from Panamanian territory.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[D'Escoto] I beg your pardon?

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[D'Escoto] That is what our friends here already asked. I believe that the United States will have to realize that all of the propaganda that it had been spreading, saying that it counted on the support of Latin America, was a lie. When the time came, it found itself completely alone. There was no one who dared to share in its being condemned by the regional organization for its interventionist policy, for its armed aggression on a brother country. I believe that all of this will make the United States ponder.

They never expected this. They believed that with their measures—the measures of pressure and intimidation that we are all aware of—they were going to make Latin America vary its position, but they were unable to do so.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[D'Escoto] Well, I do hope that they will learn. It has happened to the United States many times. Just last week, just 2 weeks ago, they were totally isolated. They were isolated in the case of the embargo; they were isolated at the United Nations voting, in which the entire world was on one side, and the United States and Israel—just see what kind of company they keep—was on the other side, voting against the resolution that says that the United States must obey the sentence of the court immediately. They were completely isolated.

I think that anyone who defends the type of policy that results in the complete isolation of the United States is doing the U.S. people a disservice, and that they will have to realize this and change their policy, their attitude, and their behavior.

[Moderator] (Barry White) from REUTER is asking a question. He is asking if there has been any further communication...rather, what information Nicaragua has received regarding its embassy in Panama.

[D'Escoto] [Words indistinct] the United States saying that they, at no time, intended the presence of their military detachment in the vicinity of our diplomatic mission in Panama to constitute a threat, and that they did not want us to view this as a threat since it was intended for our protection. So we told them that we did not want them to view our presence around their embassy as a threat, but as a protective measure, and that Nicaragua was responding in kind because Nicaragua believes in, defends, and always will defend the principle of sovereign and legal equality of all states.

So, they withdrew some of their troops, and we withdrew some of ours, in the same proportion, and the situation has been calming down. I believe that common sense will prevail. Or at least, I hope that it will. I never lose hope that the United States will abandon its policy of adventurism and total lack of respect for the norms of civilized coexistence, and will join the community of nations that believes in the rule of law and the norms of relations between sovereign states.

[Reporter] Father, when do you expect the United Nations to vote on the resolution?

[D'Escoto] The UN Security Council does not recess, therefore, if it is not voted on today, it will be voted on tomorrow. However, the important thing is that the OAS has already approved its resolution, and the OAS resolution is a clear, categorical, and firm condemnation.

The OAS resolution condemns the invasion, demands the withdrawal of the invading forces, and demands that the International Red Cross be allowed to provide assistance to the victims of that outrage unleashed by the imperialist power against a Latin American people. As I said, I do not think that they will go to the UN General Assembly because there is no time. At this moment the General Assembly is closing, and everyone is saying goodbye and going home. The assembly does not function all the time; it takes recesses, and it is going into recess now; but, if the Security Council does not vote today, it will vote tomorrow. However, that is no longer important. There is no doubt about them being condemned. The North Americans did their best to hinder, with legalistic excuses—questioning the procedures and credentials—to stall for time and keep this resolution from reaching the General Assembly. They knew the kind of condemnation they would receive had the resolution reached the General Assembly. We had already heard the condemnation issued by the Nonaligned Movement, and do not forget that currently there are seven members of the Nonaligned Movement on the Security Council. Therefore, there never was any doubt that the Security Council would vote in favor of the resolution we had presented. It was a very strong resolution. The United States would veto the resolution, and the matter would have then passed to the assembly. However, they also thought they would win at the OAS. What is important is that they were defeated at the OAS, which is headquartered in Washington and which has been traditionally manipulated and used by the United Sates to satisfy its own selfish interests.

That is what is important. Latin America has defined itself. Latin America has said no to intervention and yes to respect for the countries's right to self-determination. Latin America has said: Gringo invading troops, get out of Panamanian territory!

[Reporter] Do you seriously believe that [words indistinct] of the OAS and after all of the investments the United States has made in trying to oust Noriega and inaugurate Guillermo Endara, and the arrival of U.S. troops there, that the White House will decide to withdraw those troops? And if the troops withdraw, Endara would, of course, withdraw also, and Noriega would return. Do you think all that will happen [words indistinct]? And establishing a hypothesis, what would be an elegant solution to this crisis [words indistinct]?

[D'Escoto] I do not know what do you mean by an elegant solution. The beginning of this crisis can hardly be described as elegant and has already been condemned. I do not think there is any government willing to recognize a person sworn in by a U.S. general at a U.S. military base as the president of a Latin American country.

The Panamanian Supreme Electoral Council annulled the May elections, and the OAS foreign ministers consultation meeting held in Washington also accepted that reality and talked about preparations for new elections. It is, therefore, absurd—only the United States can think of something like that—to forget that reality, bring in Endara, and say that he is the one who should be recognized as the Panamanian president.

I believe things must continue as they were before. Panamanians must continue to defend their sovereignty, independence, and the absolute compliance with the Torrijos-Carter treaties. Panamanians must solve their own problems. This is a domestic problem, and no one should get involved in it.

When we struggled against Somoza, you must recall that I represented the Nicaraguan people at that OAS consultation meeting that was held while Somoza was still in power here. I, however, had been already appointed as member of a government junta and as the foreign minister.

I went to the OAS as the Nicaraguan foreign minister. However, we never, never asked the United States nor anybody else to intervene in Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan problem was going to be solved by the Nicaraguan people. We were fighting against a genocidal leader who had already been condemned by the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission. I do not understand what kind of person this Mr Endara is to allow himself be used in the way he is being used by the United States.

I can tell you that during our struggle against Somoza, we would have never agreed to a U.S. intervention of Nicaragua even if the United States had made the offer. At that time, what the Nicaraguan people did was to ask the United States to stop maintaining Somoza in power. We asked the United States to stop giving weapons to Somoza to massacre the people. That is what we did, but we never asked them to intervene in Nicaragua. The position of those individuals has shocked us. I can tell you that the Group of Eight.... [changes thought] those individuals' position was extensively discussed all night at the OAS until early in the morning today. We agreed that we cannot support the legitimation of a government imposed by a foreign, occupation force.

[Moderator] This is an ACAN-EFE reporter.

[Reporter] Mr Foreign Minister, the reports we are receiving after the issuance of the OAS resolution state that U.S. troops and tanks are supporting Endara so that he goes on with his government and continues announcing new appointments. Mr Endara just appointed a new police chief to try to stop the looting. What can the other countries do then regarding this situation?

[D'Escoto] They must maintain the position they adopted in this resolution. This is a resolution adopted by the OAS, a regional organization in which all the Latin American and Caribbean member states are represented. We must demand the implementation of, compliance with, and respect for the OAS resolution agreed upon at 0500 today.

[Moderator] Here is a colleague [words indistinct].

[Reporter] As for the situation of Nicaraguan citizens in Panama, what are the possibilities for them returning to Nicaragua and what can you tell us about the two Aeronica planes?

[D'Escoto] About what?

[Moderator] Foreign Minister D'Escoto is in consultation.

[D'Escoto] The situation of the comrades who are at our diplomatic mission in Panama is normal. There are no problems. I understand that the airports remain closed. The Americans, that is, the occupation forces, closed the airspace. This is obviously illegal, because they are not the authorities, but they have usurped that role for themselves. They ordered the airspace closed and, therefore, planes already there will remain grounded, and other planes will not be able to arrive for the time being unless the intervening force allow this to happen. They are obviously allowing this to happen with planes carrying soldiers that they are sending there to continue their genocide and massacre against the Panamanian people.

I believe, and really trust, that this lengthy and difficult situation at the OAS—which managed to clearly and categorically condemn the U.S. invasion in Panama—will make the United States reflect, like I said. I hope the United States takes into account the position of all Latin America and realizes that it is totally isolated. I believe that the United States has not faced a situation like this before.

As for the resolution adopted at the 17th meeting, that country was afraid of being isolated and voted in favor of that resolution. However, they could not do the same thing here, because they would have, I imagine, withdrawn their Ambassador Enaudi from there. They want to defend a right that nobody recognizes as a right.

Therefore, we have nothing more to do than hope that the United States will act prudently on this occasion and comply with the resolution issued a few hours ago at the OAS in Washington. Thank you very much.

EPS Tank Movement Reported Near Managua Airport

PA2312163389 Paris AFP in Spanish 1558 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Managua, 23 Dec (AFP)—A dozen Soviet-made T-55 tanks were mobilized this morning into the western area of Managua near the international airport. Meanwhile, the U.S. Embassy is being discreetly observed from a checkpoint manned by soldiers armed with AK-47 rifles.

A military source told AFP that the presence of the tanks, which were protected by half a dozen armored vehicles, is part of a "routine Sandinist People's Army [EPS] exercise."

A tank stationed last night in front of the U.S. Embassy's main entrance was removed early this morning after the U.S. troops removed their military cordon around the Nicaraguan Embassy in Panama City.

Meanwhile, strategic locations, like the government palace, the telecommunications building, and the headquarters of the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front remain protected by 157-mm cannons.

Contra Commander Denies Reorganization Rumors

PY2312113689 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 22 Dec 89 p 2

[Text] "contra" military chief Colonel Enrique Bermudez Varela yesterday denied the existence of an internal struggle for power within this anti-Sandinist military organization. He also ruled out the possibility that Commander Mack (Jose Benito Bravo) will become the commander of the Nicaraguan Resistance Army (ERN).

It was reported this week that a group of mid-ranking "contra" commanders, allegedly encouraged by the U.S. Government, intended to replace Bermudez Varela by Commander Mack as "contra" chief.

Bermudez Varela denied that the U.S. State Department is pressuring for a change in the organizatin of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN].

Bermudez Varela said U.S. Government officials are aware that to combat the Nicaraguan problem—as the Sandinist presence in power is called—a united organization with high ethics is necessary, particularly in facing the problem of the dispersion of the "contras," as requested by the Central American presidents, who have expressed their wish that the anti-Sandinists put down their weapons.

Bermudez Varela said that there will be no changes in the organization and that the RN will continue with its current administrative structure.

Commander Mack is currently the chief of the "contra" intelligence services.

Panama

Noriega Requests Protection at Nunciature

FL2412235889 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2333 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 24 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Informed sources have said that, accompanied by a group of clerics, General Manuel Antonio Noreiga today requested protection from the Apostolic Nunciature of Panama. A high-level official of the new government told NOTIMEX that Gen. Noriega arrived at the diplomatic headquarters after 1400 accompanied by a large group of religious leaders and that he has been there ever since.

This report differs from the version Archbishop Marcos McGrath gave to U.S. television. He said that Noreiga arrived at the religious headquarters, which has embassy rank, alone in a civilian automobile

Meanwhile, the Apostolic Nunciature is surrounded by U.S. troops, and helicopters are flying over the building. There are also several military vehicles posted in the vicinity of the Catholic Church headquarters.

Supporters of the new government honked their car horns in celebration after learning that Gen. Noriega had asked the Apostolic Nunciature for protection.

According to Radio Patriotica, spokesman for the Endara government, the Revolutionary Democratic Party, which was part of the government, has now declared itself the democratic opposition.

Not Given Political Asylum

PA2512231189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2157 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 25 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Apostolic Nuncio Jose Sebastian Laboa told ACAN-EFE today that he accepted the presence of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega at the Vatican's embassy in Panama "for the good of the country." He said that Noriega has not been granted political asylum.

Laboa said that "the situation in Panama could have worsened if we had not let Noriega come to the Nunciature."

Laboa said that the Nunciature "has not granted political asylum to Noriega," and that he is here "not only for humanitarian reasons, but also to prevent things in Panama from getting worse."

Noriega, ousted by a U.S. invasion, arrived yesterday at the Nunciature with the intention of seeking asylum in a third country to avoid being captured by Washington, which wants him for alleged drug trafficking.

The Nunciature has been surrounded by U.S. troops and armored vehicles ever since Noriega sought asylum there. Other civilian and military members of the Noriega regime are also at the Nunciature.

Laboa refrained from giving details about the ongoing negotiations among the Vatican, the United States, and the Government of Panama to decide Noriega's fate.

Diplomatic sources from several countries who are following the talks closely reported that in the last few hours Laboa has met many times with officers of the U.S. Southern Command and with Panamanian President Guillermo Endara, and that he has reported to the Pope on the current situation at the Nunciature.

Not To Be Turned Over to U.S.

FL2512152789 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1435 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Report by Pepe Mejia during the "Gazeta Matutina" program]

[Text] Joaquin Navarro, Vatican spokesperson, reports that General Manuel Antonio Noriega will not be turned in to the U.S. forces that occupy Panama or to the new government installed in that country. Navarro recalled that no extradition agreement exists between Washington and Vatican City, where he made this statement.

The Vatican spokesperson confirmed the presence of General Manuel Antonio Noriega and 31 of his collaborators in the Nunciature of Panama City. Another cable of PRENSA LATINA indicates that the Spanish Government has nothing to say at the moment regarding a possible asylum request for General Manuel Antonio Noriega, who is currently in the Panamanian Apostolic Nunciature.

Endara Says U.S., Vatican Must Solve Problem

PA2512212389 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2054 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 25 Dec (DPA)—President Guillermo Endara today said that the issue of General Manuel Antonio Noriega's asylum is "basically a problem that must be solved between the Vatican and the United States." Noreiga is currently at the Apostolic Nunciature in Panama City.

"We want to handle this situation very carefully, and I am trying to watch my words when expressing an opinion with regard to such a delicate matter," such as the decision made by Gen. Noriega yesterday, Endara added.

Endara said that the issue of Noriega's asylum must be discussed between the Vatican and the United States because "everyone can see that it is the U.S. troops who are surrounding the Nunciature."

More than 400 U.S. soldiers and armored personnel carriers surrounded the Apostolic Nunciature yesterday after it was learned that the former chief of the military and the government had requested asylum at that diplomatic mission.

There are currently many rumors about where Noreiga remained throughout the 4 days that the U.S. soldiers were trying to capture him.

It was said that the former Panamanian strongman changed hiding places everyday and at one time he was even hidden at the Santo Tomas Hospital in Panama City.

Judicial Officials Seek Asylum at Nunciature

PA2412205489 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2032 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 24 Dec (DPA)—The presidents of the Electoral Tribunal of Panama and the Supreme Court of Justice, Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez and Marisol Reyes de Vasquez respectively, today requested asylum at the Apostolic Nunciature in Panama City, it was reported today by "Radio Mia," a radio station that is the leader of a network supporting President Guillermo Endara's administration.

Radio Mia reporters also asserted that the residence of the Amado family, linked with General Manuel Antonio Noriega, remains surrounded by neighbors who are keeping the family members from going undergroumd.

Radio Mia also said that Libyan and Nicaraguan guerrilla fighters are now in command of the civilian militias called Dignity Battalions, whose members still support Gen. Noriega.

More Noriega Officials Seek Refuge at Nunciature

PA2612021589 Paris AFP in Spanish 0120 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 25 Dec (AFP)—Reliable sources have reported that a high-ranking officer and two former Noriega regime officials sought refuge at the Apostolic Nunciature in Panama City today.

These are: Lieutenant Colonel Nivaldo Madrinan, former chief of the National Department of Investigations [DENI] who has been linked to drug trafficking; and Immigration Director Belgica del Castillo and her husband Carlos del Castillo.

U.S. troops arrested Comptroller General Nander Pitti, former Commerce and Industries Minister Mario Rognoni, Attorney General Carlos Villalaz, and Radio Nacional director Ruben Murgas in Panama City today.

Today the U.S. occupation troops also arrested Rigoberto Paredes, member of the Democratic Revolutionary Party and former legislator. The arrest was made in Chorrera, approximately 32 km west of Panama City.

Meanwhile, with a call to "smoke out the rats," a ham radio network was set up in Panama City with the help of the U.S. Southern Command "to spot and arrest" civilian officials and military officers of the former regime.

Noriega Reportedly Requests Asylum From Spain

WA2512172489 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1607 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] A news report dated in Panama City has stated that Manuel Antonio Noriega, who has taken refuge in the Apostolic Nunciature in Panama City, has asked for political asylum in Spain, according to Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez.

The Spanish news agency ACAN-EFE quoted the foreign minister as saying that the government in Madrid is aware of Noreiga's request but that he has no further information and that it will be necesaary to await the course of events.

Fernandez Ordonez has said that he was in contact with the Spanish ambassabor in Panama, Tomas Lezcano, all last night. He added it was up to the Vatican to decide what to do with Noriega.

Spain made an offer of asylum to Noriega when relations between the United States and Noriega reached a particularly low point approximately 1 year ago.

The ACAN-EFE report on the situation in Panama states that Noriega, who is in the Papal Nunciature in Panama, which is surrounded by U.S. troops and vehicles, was twice seen going out onto the patio of the Nunciature.

An ACAN-EFE reporter, positioned in a nearby building when Noriega went outside the first time, said he was dressed in khaki shorts and had a towel around his neck. Noriega appeared calm but he seemed drawn. He was thinner than when the U.S. invasion began on 20 Dec.

A few minutes later, he came out again with his hair wet. He was dressed in cream-colored trousers and a striped shirt. He was wearing dark glasses and was accompanied by an unidentified person, who was stocky and dressed in a blue sweater. Noriega and his companion stayed on the patio for a few minutes.

Meanwhile, U.S. troops and 12 armored vehicles are still surrounding the Nunciature. Many soldiers have been posted on the roof and in apartments and nearby houses. Others are on the patio of St. Augustine high school, while others are in bushes on the other side of the building. However, the situation is calmer than last night, with the withdrawal of several armored personnel carriers that had arrived here yesterday when it was learned that Noriega was in the Vatican Embassy and now that the overflights by helicopter gunships had ceased.

Noriega, who is seeking asylum in Spain or Cuba, is in the Nunciature accompanied by 32 officers and high-ranking officials of his government.

'Nothing Firm' on Possibility

PY2512021689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2332 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] Panama, 25 Dec (EFE)—Spanish Ambassador to Panama Tomas Lozano Escribano today said that "there is nothing firm," when he was asked about the possibility of General Manuel Antonio Noriega being granted asylum in Spain.

"Nothing has been requested of me since Noriega entered the Nuncio's office," the ambassador said. A

U.S. source said today that Noriega, who sought refuge at the Nuncio's office this afternoon, is asking to be granted political asylum in Cuba or Spain.

"And if there was any request before that, the result was negative," the ambassador added. The Spanish envoy did not specify whether he received any petition for asylum before Noreiga entered the Nuncio's office.

The Nuncio's office is surrounded by numerous U.S. troops, tanks, and helicopters.

Advised Not To Seek Asylum

PA2512181389 Paris AFP in Spanish 1751 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] Madrid, 25 Dec (AFP)—Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez today said that Spain "does not advise" Panama's strongman, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, to seek refuge in that country, which has a drug traffickers extradition treaty with the United States.

In a statement to Spain's Radio Nacional, Fernandez Ordonez added that the Apostolic Nunciature in Panama City, where Noriega sought refuge, must decide his destination.

However, Fernandez Ordonez said that he is in constant contact with the Spanish Embassy in Panama.

Fernandez Ordonez told AFP that Noriega reportedly also asked Cuba for asylum.

The extradition treaty between the United States and Panama dates back to 1970 and includes the possibility of extraditing, from Spain to the United States, those persons accused of drug trafficking—like Noriega is in the state of Florida.

A few months ago, the Spanish authorities announced that they were willing to receive Gen. Noriega if this would help solve the Panamanian problem.

Endara Says U.S. Forces To Leave in 1 Month

PA2312192889 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1852 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] President Guillermo Endara Galimany has said in a telephone interview for the U.S. news program "Nightline" that he and the United States have established a period of 1 month to organize an army loyal to Endara, and for the U.S. forces that participated in the intervention to leave the country.

Endara said his government had a good day interviewing Panamanian officers who opposed deposed strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega and who are ready to support the Endara government.

Endara also said that his power now resides in the people, who voted overwhelmingly in his favor in the May elections that were later annulled. He said that one of his first priorities is to reestablish in the country the law and order that have been disrupted by confusion and large-scale looting ever since the operation began.

In addition, Panama's new president, Guillermo Endara, yesterday appointed Majors Juan Antonio Guizado and Ricardo Reyes Dutary as new acting chiefs of police and of the traffic department, respectively. The two new military chiefs in Panama have called on members of the former Panama Defense Forces to join in the organizational and public order efforts.

Endara Not 'Consulted' Prior to U.S. Invasion

PA2312213789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2027 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 23 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Guillermo Endara, the new president of Panama, said today that he was not consulted by the U.S. administration before the military intervention. He said: "They gave me a country under invasion."

"I was not consulted," Endara told the foreign press today at the Panamanian Foreign Ministry, where he admitted, however, that "we were told 2 or 3 hours beforehand."

Endara said that he was told of the invasion by John Bushnell, U.S. Embassy charge d'affaires, "in a very diplomatic manner."

He also admitted that he had gone to a U.S. military base, Fort Clayton, "early in the morning."

The U.S. troops began the invasion at 2345 (0445 GMT) with an attack on the general headquarters of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] and other military objectives.

Endara said: "We have taken over a country in complete anarchy." He said his first objective will be the reopening of the airports "to receive medicine and food."

He expressed hope that it will be possible to "establish a new public force that is respectful of the Constitution and of democracy."

Endara said that he is not aware of the details of the military situation, "about which Government and Justice Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon is well informed." He did add, however, that almost all the colonels have surrendered.

Endara said that what has occurred in Panama in the past few days "has been like a kick in the head," but he expressed confidence in the country's possibilities for recovery.

He called for international solidarity and, asked about relations with Latin American governments, he added simply: "Our most constant contact has been with Carlos Andres Perez," president of Venezuela.

Endara Comments on Law Enforcement Measures

PA2312214089 (Clandestine) La Red Patriotica de Divulgacion de la Verdad in Spanish to Panama 2048 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Interview with President Guillermo Endara by unidentified reporter "this afternoon" in Panama City—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. President, how do you justify the curfew? How many days will it last?

[Endara] The curfew is justified given the armed bands that call themselves Dignity Battalions, yet are nothing but armed hoodlums who have fallen on the people like leprosy, taking away everything the people have, raping their women, etc. We have to control the situation, particularly at night. That is why we have decreed a curfew between 2300 and 0500. No one, absolutely no one, should go out, to allow us to maintain order during those hours—when it is difficult to maintain order.

[Reporter] What about the daytime hours, Mr. President? They are looting and attacking people.

[Endara] Yes. I know that this is an extremely difficult situation. We are resuming control of the streets on a daily basis. Thank God, and thanks to the efforts exerted by distinguished military officers whose moral standing is well known because they have never repressed the Panamanian people, we are building a new Public Forces. The Public Forces are constitutional forces at the service of the people.

The Public Forces are about to go out in the streets. They are being prepared and we will see more and more Public Forces members every day. They will enforce order by safeguarding the individual and social rights of all the Panamanian people. This will be more and more clear every day, and we hope the situation will change in a few days.

I must add that the Panamanian people are setting an example for all other nations in these extremely difficult times of our history. The people are defending and enforcing order and justice within their own neighborhoods. The example being set in all the Panamanian neighborhoods is great. The Panamanian people are uniting to defend themselves from all these armed bands.

[Reporter] One final question, Mr. President. Do you have a message for the youth of Panama, who today are witnessing this historic change in our fatherland?

[Endara] We are making all of these sacrifices precisely for the new generations of Panamanians. We who have lived under the dictatorship have the obligation to bequeath to the new generations a government of democracy, justice, and freedom under which Panamanians, the new generations above all, can enjoy freedom. Panamanians are a free people; they are born free, and should continue to be free.

I would tell the youth of Panama that we have had to assume our post at a very difficult time. The tyrant has been overthrown, but he has left us a country in which there has been an intervention. The intervention took place during General Noriega's dictatorship. The intervention took place because of Gen. Noriega. We assumed power precisely while the invasion was in progress. We had to take the reins of the government at the height of the invasion. We have had to take over a country, and Panama City in particular, in a state of anarchy. But within this anarchy we have had to, we are, building a regime of peace, justice, and freedom.

We need everyone's best efforts to achieve the peaceful coexistence that we all yearn for. This duty does not rest entirely on the president and the cabinet ministers; it is a duty of all Panamanians, and we have to make everyone aware of this. We ask the youth of Panama to help us create this awareness that the task of rebuilding and reconciling this country is a task for all Panamanians, for every single Panamanian.

We are all going to have to make sacrifices and work arduously on this task of rebuilding Panama. I offer only to serve you. I am not here to give orders or to impose my will. On the contrary, it is the will of the people that will reign, and I will be at the service of the people's will.

President Endara Grants Interview

PA2412034889 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2342 GMT 23 Dec 89

["Exclusive interview" with President Guillermo Endara by unidentified reporter in Panama City on 21 December—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr President of the Republic Guillermo Endara Galimany, 48 hours after the installation of the so-called Government of National Reconstruction and Reconciliation, we believe it is important for the Panamanian citizens and for the whole world to know about your Cabinet—particularly the international guidelines given to your foreign minister.

[Endara] The entire Cabinet has been chosen. All the persons chosen as ministers have accepted their posts. Most of the them are currently carrying out their roles but, unfortunately, we cannot reveal all their names to the people for security reasons. You know that the public order situation leaves much to be desired. There are bands of armed people who could attack these ministers. Given the situation and for the sake of these high-ranking public officials' personal security, we will not reveal their names.

We have, of course, announced the appointment of Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president of the Republic, as minister of government and justice. We have announced the appointment of Mr Guillermo Ford, second vice president of the Republic, as minister of planning and economic policy. We have also appointed and revealed the appointment of Dr Julio Linares as

foreign minister. Referring to this last appointment, I can tell you that Dr Julio Linares is a well-known lawyer, a jurist who is basically a specialist in international law. He is a professor in international public law; an author of several books on international public law; and is highly experienced in diplomatic issues.

I believe that we have chosen one of Panama's greatest talents in international law as foreign minister. I believe that Dr Julio Linares will be a positive element given the difficult situation prevailing in the country, particularly concerning international issues, and he will be an immense help to the Panamanian people so that they may carry on for the sake of the country we love so much.

[Reporter] President Endara, you assume....[corrects himself] have assumed the Presidency of the Republic of Panama in one of its most dramatic moments, amid an invasion, amid vandalism with Dantesque scenes—in sum, a number of events that lead us to believe that the Republic of Panama will have start from ground zero. What, in your opinion, is the alternative for rebuilding the Panamanian nation?

[Endara] You are right. I have assumed the Presidency of the Republic in the worst conditions ever faced by any other president in history—not only of Panama, but any other Latin American country. When I assumed the Presidency of the Republic, this country had been invaded. Every public order system had been disrupted when I began to carry out my role, and we faced total anarchy. All the economic and social guidelines had vanished. One of my options was simply to reject the post and say: This is not for me. I do not want the job under these conditions.

However, I remembered that when the people elected me president of the Republic I knew that this was not only an honor—because it is an honor to be elected president of the Republic by the people, particularly the majority by which I was elected—but also a great responsibility I had acquired from the Panamanian people. I could not let down....[changes thought] forget the people. I had to assume the Presidency regardless of the circumstances. I had to assume it because I cannot let the people down.

Upon assuming the Presidency I have many thoughts about the future. I will not be distracted by all the problems we currently face. If I began to worry that we are invaded, and have been intervened, that we are facing a chaotic public order situation; and if I only thought about negative things, we would be finished. We must think about Panama's future, and all the Panamanians must concentrate on Panama and the fact that we must start the reconstruction as of today. This is the important thing. We have to look toward the future with a positive attitude and optimism. We should never harbor negative thoughts.

[Reporter] Mr President, the country's situation is very dramatic due to the events' social costs. There is a possible food and medicine shortage, and hospitals are already unable to attend to all their patients. What aid or emergency program will your government implement to assist the Panamanian people?

[Endara] Some aid is coming or is about to arrive from the United States of America. I had a telephone conversation with President George Bush and told him that I was very concerned because many people lack the necessary food and medicine to subsist. I asked him for immediate emergency aid, basically in food and provisions [as heard], and they are about to arrive. We are taking another action immediately; that is to open the Tocumen Airport so that planes bringing food and provisions can get to Panama to be distributed by persons and organizations with high moral principles.

[Reporter] Mr President, regarding public administration, public employees are very uncertain of their situation. They do not know if they still have jobs and when they are to start working again. Do you have any message for the public employees?

[Endara] Of course. During our political campaign we promised public employees....[changes thought] Two or 3 weeks ago, we issued a statement to public employees regarding the treatment they were getting from the dictatorship on their wages. We stated that we were going to keep the promises we had made to them. We do not want revenge, massive firings, or anything of the sort. We want the Panamanian public employees to be professional. We want them to operate as a nonpolitical organization that is not committed to this government. They should only fulfill their duties. I will never ask them to attend a public demonstration. I will never ask them to register with a political party, and they will not be fired for political reasons of any kind. I will keep my promise to them.

[Reporter] Do you have the exact date when the public administration will be operating again?

[Endara] We want to begin work on 26 December. We do not know if all the institutions will be able to do so or if they will be able to start progressively. This decision will be made by the cabinet possibly tomorrow and we will announce the decision. However, I will say now that we want work to commence on 26 December.

[Reporter] Mr President, there is a very important point—organization of the new Public Forces. In your opinion, and as the constitutional president of Panama, what characteristics should the Public Forces have?

[Endara] The Public Forces should have the characteristics that the people have always demanded. The Public Forces must defend the people. It must not be a force that humiliates, imprisons, represses, or beats up the people with sticks and rubber hoses. In other words, it must be a force at the service of the people. The Public Forces must abide by the Constitution. They must be under the authority of the person that the people elected for that purpose. The Public Forces must be under the authority of the country's president. I am not saying that

the Public Forces must be under my authority. I am saying that it must be under the authority of the president.

Meanwhile, the president must act as a government official at the service of the people. He must abide by the people's will. He must fulfill the people's demands. In that way, the Public Forces would respond to the people's interests and not to the interests of one politician or one person. That is they way such forces operate in all democratic countries. The Public Forces must defend democracy.

In democratic countries, public forces know who is their supreme chief; the supreme chief is the person the people elected as the president of the country. The Public Forces are regulated by the Constitution and must serve the people.

The Public Forces are being born in Panama right now. They are being born in Panama with the cooperation of those Panama Defense Forces [FDP] members who have stood out for their behavior and for not having records of corruption or of having repressed the people. We are organizing a Public Forces with the best, most dignified and honorable former FDP members. Those gentlemen will be part of Public Forces at the service of the people.

I can tell you that the first group of high-ranking officers that are part of the Public Forces were sworn in before me yesterday. I felt they were living a historic moment. I felt my heart and the hearts of those military men vibrating. Something that the Panamanians have been praying for, for a long time, was being born. We will soon see our Public Forces in the streets. I asked the U.S. authorities to patrol the streets along with the members of the Panamanian Public Forces so that the Panamanian people can begin to participate in the maintenance of public order and so that the presence of the foreign army becomes decreasingly necessary.

[Reporter] Finally, Mr President, what is your opinion regarding Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, who is currently in hiding? Do you think he should be tried in Panamanian or U.S. courts?

[Endara] First, I must tell you that everything we are experiencing now, the tragedy the Panamanian people are living, has been caused by Gen. Noriega and his dictatorship.

We are suffering the consequences of the dictatorship of a man who thought only about himself and who never took the Panamanian people's interests into account. If he had just slightly taken the Panamanian people's interests into account, he would have sought a solution to this problem long ago. We offered him that solution in 1,000 different ways. The Panamanian people know that. The Panamanian people know that we offered Noriega many honorable and dignified ways to withdraw from power. We offered him ample solutions. He rejected them, because he wanted to continue in power anyway. He has caused all these problems in Panama.

I do not really know what is more suitable for Panama with respect to your question. I only seek what is more suitable for Panama. I do not know if it would be better if Noriega falls into Panamanian hands or U.S. hands. The United States is the one that wants him. The United States is even offering a reward for him.

Noriega owes many things to the Panamanian people. The Panamanian Government, however, is not after Gen. Noriega, because we are busy doing much more important things than seeking revenge.

[Reporter] Do you have any message for the rebel soldiers who are still loyal to Gen. Noriega?

[Endara] I do not think Gen. Noriega deserves any Panamanian's loyalty. No one should risk his life and health for a person who has harmed Panama so much. I urge those people to lay down their weapons and turn them over to the corresponding authorities. I urge them to use their energy to build Panama. Out of such ruins, we will build Panama. All Panamanians of goodwill will build a new Panama. Panama will become the example of democracy of our America. I urge those people to support us in this struggle to build the Panama for which we are all yearning.

Endara Says Elections Valid for Next 5 Years

PA2412192789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1905 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 24 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—At his first news conference since the U.S. invasion, President Guillermo Endara announced today that the Panamanian Government will not call for elections for 5 years.

In response to a question regarding the possible call for new elections, Endara said: "The 7 May elections were valid for the next 5 years."

General Manuel Antonio Noriega and the previous regime anulled the 7 May elections, which according to many observers and to the Panamanian Church, were won by the opposition then headed by Endara.

Endara Says Noriega Would Not Be Extradited

PA2412200689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1940 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 24 Dec (EFE)—During a news conference held today, Panamanian President Guillermo Endara said that if General Manuel Antonio Noriega falls into Panamanian hands instead of U.S. hands, he will not be extradited.

In answer to questions as to whether Noriega—whose whereabouts have been unknown since last Tuesday, 19 December—would be extradited to the United States if he surrenders to the new government, Endara answered: "There is no extradition law in Panama."

The president added: "I have to abide by the Constitution. I have to respect the Constitution, which has not been respected up until now."

The Panamanian Constitution expressly bans the extradition of Panamanian citizens.

Yesterday, 23 December, Endara said that "Panama is not looking for Noriega," and that that is the business of the international police (Interpol) and of the United States, where General Noriega has judicial charges pending for alleged links with drug-trafficking activities.

Endara Hails 'New Era' in Christmas Message

PA2512225989 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2149 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Address to the nation by President Guillermo Endara Galimany—live or recorded]

[Text] Twenty centuries, 2000 years ago, a baby was born. He was the king of kings, but he was born in the poverty of a manger, in very difficult times. These are the same circumstances in which today, a new era, a new republic is born: the republic of democracy, freedom, and justice. It is born in a Panama that is under occupation, in a Panama in which we have endured days of great pain and anguish, but like that baby 2000 years ago, we are born in the spirit of God, with faith and hope in a great future, a future that we will leave for our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

This Christmas should lead us to reflect on the great gift that the divine child has given us. We have undergone very difficult times, but we have received what we wanted. We finally have our freedom. Democracy finally reigns. Justice has finally come to us.

Thank you very much and have a happy Christmas.

Noriega Reportedly Tells Supporters to Cease Fire

PA2312195089 Paris AFP in Spanish 1938 GMT 23 Dec 89

[By Arturo Gudino]

[Excerpts] David, Panama, 23 Dec (AFP)—According to military sources in this city, the main garrisons in western Panama, where General Manuel Antonio Noriega reportedly planned to establish a guerrilla force to resist the U.S. invasion, decided within the past few hours to negotiate a surrender to the U.S. Southern Command.

At the same time, it was learned that Gen. Noriega, whose whereabouts have been unknown since the invasion began on Wednesday, has reportedly issued "orders" to troops remaining loyal to him to cease fire.

A reliable source who asked not to be identified said: "I personally heard from high-ranking officers in David that Noriega had called for a cease-fire. He is apparently convinced that his cause is completely lost."

Meanwhile, Bernardo Fochini, parish priest of David, announced today that the garrisons at Santiago, Penonome, and Chitre decided in the past few hours to join the military leaders of the David garrison in their decision to surrender to the Southern Command and recognize opposition leader Guillermo Endara as the new president of the Republic. [passage omitted]

An official in David said: "There are thousands of weapons in the mountains. If the military chiefs in that region had decided to confront the Americans, it would have been almost impossible for the U.S. troops to control the situation." [passage omitted]

Noriega Allegedly Transmits Radio Message

PY2312234289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2324 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Panama, 23 Dec (TELAM-ANSA)—Radio Veraguas, which transmits in the interior of Panama from the Veraguas [word indistinct], 250 km from this capital, today transmitted a message attributed to General Manuel Antonio Noriega accusing the United States of provoking a "massacre" and also denying reports that the invasion forces are controlling the situation.

There are doubts that the message was effectively made by Noriega. At some moments, in comparisons of his voice tone, the message seems to be spoken by Noriega. There are doubts at other moments, although it could be because of the conditions under which the recording was made.

"I accuse the George Bush administration of carrying out a large and useless massacre, which is not being reported by the media controlled by the United States," the message says.

The voice attributed to Noriega then states: "The United States has made all kinds of provocations to justify this invasion and to impose a government that does not represent the population and that does not have control over the city."

The alleged message by Noriega then accuses President Bush of concealing the massacre caused by the invasion and the large amount of victims that resulted from the U.S. action.

Noriega Accuses Bush of 'Unnecessary Massacre'

PA2412002489 Paris AFP in Spanish 2346 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 23 Dec (AFP)— General Manuel Antonio Noriega, overthrown head of government and commander of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], today accused U.S. President George Bush of perpetrating "an unnecessary massacre" and hiding from the world the number of dead that the United States has suffered as a result of the military invasion of Panama.

The United States "provoked the situation to justify this action," and Bush continues to hide from the international community the number of U.S. deaths and the fact that the people and the soldiers have responded," Noriega stressed in a recording delivered to AFP on Saturday by a high-ranking leaders of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD).

Noriega, who since Wednesday has gone underground while the U.S. forces are doing everything possible to capture him, asked the international community and "all the American people" to view "with concern" the intervention in Panama because "all the treaties and concepts of international law," have been violated.

In his recording Noriega said that "they want to impose a government that does not have the support or control of the people in general and that has divided the Panamanian family," in reference to the administration headed by Guillermo Endara, sworn in as new president at a U.S. base.

The invasion was launched 4 days ago and the U.S. troops continue to wage sporadic fighting with forces loyal to Noriega and, according to a PRD spokesperson, more than 1,500 Panamanians and 200 U.S. soldiers are dead.

"The United States picks up the bodies and takes them away," Mario Rognoni, former Noriega adviser and former commerce and industries minister, said on the telephone.

The leader said that Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez, sworn in on 1 September, and PRD President Carlos Duque, continue, clandestinely, at the head of the overthrown government.

"We are going to continue resisting," Rognoni added after stating that "an international agreement" to reach a conciliation in Panama will be reached in the next few days.

Rognoni reiterated that "in the end there will be international mediation to seek a government of national conciliation."

However, Rognoni said that the instability could prolong itself some 10 years if the U.S. forces do not withdraw and if an international agreement is not reached.

In conclusion, Rognoni said that the resistance is turning into a guerrilla movement and that Noriega "has more support than thought to resist the invasion of the strongest army in the world."

Vice President Appoints Police Department Chief

PA2212170289 (Clandestine) La Red Patriotica de Divulgacion de la Verdad in Spanish to Panama 1528 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Statements by First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon, Traffic Department Chief Major Ricardo Reyes Dutari, Police Department Chief Major Juan Antonio Guizado; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Arias] Panamanian men and women, I am Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president and government and justice minister of the Democratic Government of National Reconstruction and Reconciliation.

With the authorization of President Guillermo Endara and based on the Panamanian Constitution, I inform you that we will begin organizing the traffic and police services as of today.

President Endara has given Major Ricardo Reyes Dutari the task of organizing the Traffic Department of the Democratic Government of National Reconstruction and Reconciliation as soon as possible. Similarly, President Endara has given Major Juan Antonio Guizado the task of organizing the police department of the Democratic Government of National Reconstruction and Reconciliation as soon as possible.

As of today, both departments will be located at the Traffic Department Building in Curundu. Those offices are enabled and duly authorized to receive all those policemen who are willing to define their loyalty as loyalty to the Panamanian people, the constitution, and democracy under President Guillermo Endara's legitimate, civilian authority.

We are asking those policemen to report at the Traffic Department building in Curundu as of 1000 today without weapons, and if possible, with their cards identifying them as Panama Defense Forces members [FDP]. If they do not have those identification cards, there will be people who will identify them at the entrance of the building.

I reiterate what I said on 21 December at the Justo Arosemena National Assembly Palace. The Democratic Government of National Reconstruction and Reconciliation believes that it is absolutely necessary to reestablish public order and guarantee peace, safety, and respect for the human rights of all citizens.

In addition, this government honestly invites all the FDP members to resume their functions beginning with traffic and police operations as of today for the good of the Panamanian people and the military institution.

Maj Ricardo Reyes Dutari will address you now:

[Reyes] Members of the forces of public order: I have decided to accept the designation as head of the National Traffic Department to help my people and our country to move forward during the current situation. When I say the current situation I am referring to what is happening on our streets right now.

The main thing for me is to fulfill my duty before my country. I will do all I can to move forward and attain peace in our country. I urge all the members of this institution to come to the National Traffic Department

in Curundu, where we will be waiting for you to reorganize the necessary services and provide tranquillity to the city and the country. Thank you very much.

[Arias] Maj Juan Antonio Guizado will address you now:

[Guizado] Good morning to all my comrades in arms, especially to those good soldiers who are members of our Police Department and the FDP. As of 1000 today, we will be waiting for each and all of you, without fail, to come and make a sincere and honest commitment to the homeland at the Traffic Department Building to resume our sacred police services, which are a priority service at this time.

On behalf of the new democratic government and all of my comrades in arms, not only of the Police Department, but of our entire glorious institution, I tell you that we will continue forward. We will continue forward with firm steps. We know that as good patriots all of you will do everything you can so that this country continues forward.

Thus, I reiterate to all the members of the Police Department, without exceptions, that we are waiting for you here in Curundu as of 1000 today. Thank you very much.

[Arias] I am Ricardo Arias Calderon, first Panamanian vice president and government and justice minister along with Maj Ricardo Reyes Dutari and Maj Juan Antonio Guizado.

Ford Urges People To Trust New Government

PA2312051189 (Clandestine) La Red Patriotica de Divulgacion de la Verdad in Spanish to Panama 0215 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Statement by Second Vice President Guillermo Ford; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Panamanian brothers and sisters. I am Guillermo Ford, Panamanian constitutional second vice president. I am addressing the nation with the due authorization of His Excellency, Panamanian President Guillermo Endara, to share with you the very sad moments all Panamanians are experiencing.

We will not slacken in our efforts to eradicate the evil that has been harming our country so much. We must hold that damned Panamanian, Manuel Antonio Noriega, responsible for all the evil we have been experiencing in Panama. The forces, which we cannot describe as loyal but as unconditional henchmen of the former dictator, are trying to inflict pain and mourning on the Panamanian families. They are trying to destroy the lives, property, and honor of all Panamanians.

Little by little, we are succeeding in recovering all the necessary mechanisms to provide the peace and tranquillity that Panamanian society is yearning for.

We have said and we reiterate today that we will not enter phases of revenge. We will continue calling for peace, tranquillity and peaceful coexistence among all Panamanians.

Under no circumstances, however, will we permit the outrages conducted by criminals, by the members of the misnamed Dignity Battalions, who not only seek to intimidate the population as they have done in the past, but also to destroy their lives and property.

The Panamanian Government continues to work 24 hours a day without halting its efforts to rapidly install a true, permanent, and lasting democracy, justice, and freedom in the country.

We will do that based on the principle outlined by His Excellency President Endara, who said that ours will be a democratic government of reconstruction and reconciliation.

We urge the Panamanian people to act bravely and calmly. Do not let these damned Dignity Battalions intimidate us. They will soon be eradicated once and for all from Panamanian territory.

We continue to receive the support of loyal forces from the public force, which pleases us, because in that way we are consolidating the forces we need to fight those thugs and bad Panamanians. Although we are making a call for serenity, we ask Panamanian society—and I repeat from the bottom of my heart—not to allow more outrages and to prevent unnecessary bloodshed among Panamanians.

Trust the leaders of the Panamanian constitutional government. Trust the capacity that we have now and the one we are acquiring by the hour to control public order disturbances.

We promise you that we will live in peace and we will eradicate the evil that is harming us. God bless you, and may God continue enlighten us during these difficult times. We want to convey to you a message of faith, hope, and harmony.

We are seeking solutions to the problem of food and medicine shortages. We are trying to get the hospitals to operate normally to take care of our sick people. We are working on obtaining the necessary funds to begin paying the wages of public employees and loyal members of the public force.

For that reason, we will not slacken in our determination to reconstruct the country. We will exhaust all necessary mechanisms so that we can rapidly live in peace. May God continue enlightening us along the path of freedom, justice, and democracy. God bless the Panamanian people. We will keep you informed about everything that is going on in the country.

Vice President Ford Announces New Curfew Hours

PA2312043889 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0337 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 22 Dec (DPA)—The opposition government of Panama has reduced the curfew hours decreed on 21 December and announced that a 6-hour curfew will be in effect from 2300 to 0500, despite the chaotic situation existing in the country.

Guillermo Ford, speaking on behalf of Guillermo Endara who was proclaimed president of Panama, announced the new curfew. the previous curfew was in effect from 1800 to 0600.

Nevertheless, Ford warned that anyone caught out on the streets during the curfew hours "runs the risk of being killed."

Vice President Arias Addresses Nation

PA2312204589 (Clandestine) La Red Patriotica de Divulgacion de la Verdad in Spanish to Panama 1849 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Speech by First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Panamanian women and men, this is Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president of the Republic and minister of government justice in the democratic government of national reconstruction and reconciliation. First of all, I wish to state on behalf of President Endara, Second Vice President Guillermo Ford, and me, our admiration for the initiatives taken by groups of civilians throughout the city and in the different neighborhoods to organize themselves and jointly maintain public order and peace in their respective neighborhoods; and to jointly reject any attack from groups of the so-called Dignity Battalions and from any group that has tried or tries to participate in vandalism.

The civilians who are thus helping maintain peace and security through self-defense groups and the civilians who thus state their support to the Democratic Government of National Reconstruction and Reconciliation have our admiration and gratitude. Public order and respect for human rights is still the first concern of President Endara and the democratic government he presides over. That is why I want to report the progress achieved in our efforts to quickly reorganize the Panamanian Public Forces.

Yesterday we issued an appeal to members of the Panamanian Public Forces, urging them to come to the offices of the National Directorate of Land Traffic and Transportation [DNTT] in Curundu to join the traffic and police services. We told them that we had charged Major Ricardo Reyes Dutari and Major Juan Antonio Guizado Morales to start working in the traffic and police services, respectively.

I can assure you that the results of the appeal have been excellent. More than 500 members of the Public Forces answered the call, although many had no means of transportation and although hoodlums who are members of the Dignity Battalions tried to perpetrate an armed attack on the DNTT in Curundu. More than 500 members of the Public Forces answered the call despite these serious obstacles, and the organizational work will begin today to allow us to resume the traffic and police service.

Today we renew the appeal we issued yesterday. All the members of the Panamanian Public Forces who define their loyalty as loyalty to the Panamanian people, constitution, and democracy under the civil authority of President Guillermo Endara should approach these officers who have been placed in charge of these services in the mentioned place. Thus we will be able to continue to work to organizie the Panamanian Public Forces, particularly during this first phase concerning the traffic and police services. We hereby announce that joint patrolling will be carried out today in some sectors of the city by members of the Panamanian Public Forces and the U.S. Military Police. I ask the people to welcome these joint patrols—which start today and will gradually increase from now on—with expressions of support and greetings because they represent the work of the democratic government.

I also have some excellent news for you. We have talked with military officers in all the military zones throughout the countryside during the last 2 days, and I can announce that the military zones in the countryside support the Democratic Government of National Reconstruction and Reconciliation. Those officers have taken a decisive step to respect the Panamanian people's will; and we have asked them to immediately release all the political prisoners—both civilian and military. The officers agreed to do so, and now the prisoners are free.

We have also asked the military officers to begin disarming the so-called Dignity Battalions, which have actually become groups of armed hoodlums, to stop them from causing in those areas the problems they have been recently causing in the metropolitan area. Above all, we have asked these officers to start establishing a new relationship between civilians and military forces in all the military zones. This must be a new relationship based on mutual respect and the acceptance—both by civilians and military alike—of the legitimate authority of the president of the Republic.

Furthermore, and to indicate how much progress has been achieved by our efforts to reorganize the Panamanian Public Forces, later today we will be able to announce the appointment of the new chief of the Panamanian Public Forces. This appointment will naturally be made with the authorization of the president of the Republic, Guillermo Endara.

Panamanian men and women, we have lived and continue to live through difficult times. This tests our innermost feelings, but the test will allow us to save our

homeland. We are building Panamanian democracy. The Panamanians are starting to achieve a reconciliation through suffering. As first vice president of the Republic and minister of government and justice in President Endara's administration, I salute you with enormous admiration and I feel proud to be a Panamanian, because tragedy has allowed to perceive that a free, just, and democratic Panama has begun to emerge. Thank you.

Ford Announces New Public Force Leaders

PA2312201689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1932 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 23 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Second Vice President Guillermo Ford announced today that Colonel Roberto Armijo, former head of the Panamanian Navy, will command the Public Force and that his second in command will be Colonel Eduardo Herrera.

Ford, interviewed at the Foreign Ministry, where the new government headed by President Guillermo Endara has its offices temporarily, said that at this time, groups of "uniformed and armed" policemen have been organized and ordered to patrol the city to impose order.

Col. Armijo was a member of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] General Staff, while Herrera was retired from the FDP in 1988, when he was Panamanian ambassador to Israel, after having differences with General Manuel Antonio Noriega. Since then, he has been living in exile in Miami.

The vice president, who is also minister of planning and economic policy, blamed Gen. Noriega for the "invasion" of Panama by U.S. troops, because "he provoked it."

Ford also announced that the Omar Torrijos International Airport will be reopened in the next few days for "limited flights" and to receive medical assistance and food from countries such as Spain, which, he said, has sent two planeloads that are currently in Costa Rica.

The provisional seat of the new Panamanian Government, a small palace that formerly housed the Foreign Ministry, is located in the center of the capital, in front of the Spanish Embassy, in an area that is closely guarded by the U.S. military.

Arias Speaks to New Public Forces

PA2312225889 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2112 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Speech by First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon on the occasion of swearing in new Public Forces members "this afternoon" in Panama City—recorded]

[Text] As vice president of the Republic and minister of government and justice of the Democratic Government of National Reconstruction and Reconciliation presided over by constitutional President Guillermo Endara Galimany, I address you as what you are—the Public Forces—and that name is consecrated by the Panamanian Constitution that we, the civilians obey and that you, the military, also obeys. I address you as the Public Forces of Panama.

I wish to state on behalf of President Endara that the Public Forces may and must be joined by all the members who define their loyalty as loyalty to the Panamanian people first of all; as loyalty to the national constitution; and as loyalty to the democracy that our people demand and that our constitution orders—all under the supreme authority of the president of the Republic, whom both civilians and military obey.

I will read the Public Forces' oath to you. Those who are willing to serve the homeland in these terms should raise their hands and repeat after me: I swear to God and the homeland to loyally abide—under the authority of the president of the Republic—by the Constitution and the laws of Panama to defend democracy. [Crowd repeats oath after Arias Calderon]

I also want to announce the appointments that, according to the Constitution, the president of the Republic has asked me to notify to you of: The appointments of the chief and assistant chief of the Public Forces. All the other specific appointments will be made upon proposal from the Public Forces leadership, if the president of the republic so decides.

Upon instructions from Dr Guillermo Endara, president of the Republic, I announce the appointment of Colonel Roberto Armijo as chief of the Public Forces. [applause] On behalf of the president of the Republic, Guillermo Endara Galimany, I announce the appointment of Colonel Eduardo Herrera Hassan as deputy chief of the Public Forces. [applause]

Now for a short statement and then to work:

We did not request the invasion. The invasion was decided by the U.S. Government given Noriega's criminal actions against the Panamanian homeland and the Public Forces themselves. We knew about it 2 hours in advance, and we had to make a decision—the most grave decision in our lives. Either we abided by the people's will, stated on 7 May, and were sworn in as a constitutional Panamanian Government to save Panama in the most tragic hour of its history; or we remained idle and let an invasion that we had not requested—and which we had sought to prevent by doing the unspeakable—completely destroy the Panamanian nation without leaving Panamanian civilian or military authorities.

We chose the best for our homeland, regardless of the costs, and on that night we were sworn in by the president of the Human Rights Commission and the secretary of the Human Rights Commission as president and vice presidents of the Republic. Now I have a task as minister of government and justice. It is the the most important task in Panama nowadays: To establish the Panamanian Public Forces and offer security, order, and peace to all the Panamanian people with full respect for

their human rights and full respect for the constitution and the laws. You have given proof of an extraordinary dedication and willingness to serve under the circumstances. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

I am sure that when the Panamanian people see you on the streets with your uniforms and your weapons, offering them exactly the kind of security that they have been hoping for, they are going to thank you and respect you like they never have before. [applause]

To each one of you, my thanks and the thanks of President Endara. The most important thing now is to provide police and traffic services. All other things will come with time. [applause]

I would like to announce that all the military regions in the interior of the country have promised to support the Democratic Government of National Reconstruction and Reconciliation. Consequently, God willing, there will not be any more fighting with all the suffering and sacrifice that it entails.

The only thing I would like to say in closing is: For 21 years I fought against the military, and you all know why. However, I do not harbor any rancor or desire for vengeance. I am willing to offer you all the respect that the civil authorities should accord you [applause], and I ask all Panamanians to give you all the respect that you deserve. Nevertheless, I also have the right to demand that you respect your oath, as I am sure you will.

One more thing, the reconciliation between civilian and military must be accompanied by a reconciliation between the men in uniform themselves. One of Noriega's most serious crimes was to introduce conflict, blood, and torture into the Public Force itself. This must never occur again. That is why, on behalf of the president, I have instructed the leaders of the Public Force to admit into its ranks any officer who will faithfully comply with his oath, regardless of the previous conflict.

If civilians and the military can forgive one another, the members of the military also can and should forgive one another. Long live Panama! [Crowd shouts: Viva!] Thank you. [applause]

Arias: All Garrisons Recognize New Government

PA2412202289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1847 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 24 Dec (ACAN - EFE)—Ricardo Arias Calderon, vice president and minister of government and justice, said today that all of Panama's military garrisons have recognized Guillermo Endara's new government.

Arias added that over 1,000 troops belonging to the former Panama Defense Forces [FDP], which were commanded by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, have been sworn in as members of the new Panama Public Force, headed by Colonel Roberto Armijo, a former member of the FDP General Staff.

The vice president admitted that there are still "die-hard officers" loyal to Noriega, "about whom we have no information."

This morning, Lieutenant Colonels Carlos Arosemena King, Daniel Delgado and Arnulfo Castrejon, of the FDP General Staff, turned themselves in and placed themselves at the disposal of the new commander, Col. Armijo.

Ford Announces Confiscations, Measures, Plans

PA2412211989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2018 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 24 Dec (DPA)—Guillermo Ford, second vice president and minister of planning and economic policy, today said that the new government has found "more than $6 million in cash" in several residences of former strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Ford also announced that 154,000 government employees must return to work on Tuesday, 26 December, and that they are reorganizing the government employees' payroll for the second half of December.

Guillermo Ford announced that an economist appointed by President Guillermo Endara will travel to Washington tomorrow, 25 December, to coordinate the return of $400 million that the United States has withheld for the last 19 months [words indistinct] contacts with the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank.

The minister of planning and economic policy also said that talks have begun with the National Banking Association to restore banking operations within the framework of the current circumstances.

Ford revealed that the Omar Torrijos International Airport has been reopened to receive seven airplanes bringing humanitarian aid consisting of food and medicine.

New Cabinet, Other Appointments Announced

PA2512230989 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2220 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] During a news conference held this afternoon, the government presided over by Guillermo Endara Galimany announced the names of the new cabinet as well as the names of several directors of autonomous and semi-autonomous entities. The names of Guillermo Endara's cabinet are as follows:

Minister of:	
Agriculture	Ezequiel Rodriguez
Commerce & Industries	Juan Chevalier
Education	Adade Gordon
Finance & Treasury	Mario Galindo
Foreign Relations	Julio Linares
Government & Justice	Ricardo Arias Calderon
Health	Jose Trinidad Castillero
Housing	Raul Figueroa
Labor & Social Welfare	Jorge Ruben Rosas
Planning & Economic Policy	Guillermo Ford
Presidency	Julio Harris
Public Works	Rene Orillac

The following additional appointments were also announced:

Acting Comptroller	Ruben Dario Carles
Children's Hospital Director	Esteban Lopez
Social Security Hospital Director	Dr. Rolando de la Guardia
Santo Tomas Hospital Director	Dr. Amalia Rodriguez French
Metropolitan Sanitation Directorate	Nilson Espino
National Department of Investigation	Inspector Leslie Loaiza
General Command of the Defense and Security Commission	Colonel Armando Palacios Gondola

Arias Announces Governors, Public Force Chiefs

PA2612041889 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2337 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Interview with Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president and minister of government and justice, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Arias] From the public order and human rights viewpoint, the situation nationwide is returning to normal. The interior of the republic, as well as Colon and Panama, are openly recognizing the democratic government. As each hour passes, there is more safety. We can announce that in several areas the new civilian authorities and the new Public Force authorities have been sworn in. I can say that in Veraguas Province we have already appointed the governor; Hermel Rodriguez. The Public Force appointed Major Carlos Acosta Gutierrez as the chief of the Public Force in the Veraguas areas. Likewise, in Los Santos Province, Miguel Cardenas was appointed governor of the province and Major Cesar Dominguez has been appointed chief of the Public Force in that area.

Dr. Gabriel Arosemena was appointed governor of Cocle Province and Major German Pinzon as chief of the Public Force in that area. We have also appointed David Solis governor of Herrera Province, and Major Cesar Cordero is chief of the Public Force in that area. In this manner, in a coordinated manner, we are establishing a civil authority and, together with the civil authority, the new Public Force authority. As this is done, in coordination with the U.S. units in those regions, the people begin to acquire a greater sense of safety, but always safety with respect for human rights. For example, the area of Colon, potentially a source of concern for any government because of the effervescence of a forgotten and hurt people, is calm. Leopoldo Benedetti has been appointed the new governor of Colon Province. Very positive steps are being taken toward restoring public order and safety while respecting human rights.

[Reporter] Dr. Arias, have other high-ranking Public Force officers been appointed?

[Arias] Yes, they have. We have made several appointments. In addition to the appointments of Public Force chief Colonel Roberto Armijo and Deputy Public Force chief Colonel Eduardo Herrera, we have appointed Colonel Armando Palacios Gondola as the new COGECODESE [General Command of the Defense and Security Commission] director. COGECODESE is the liaison between the Panamanian Public Force and the U.S. forces, especially in the canal area. We have also appointed Colonel Moises Correa, director of operations of the Public Force; Major Miguel Aleman Mendoza, director of personnel; Major Aristides Baldonedo, public security director—this office was formerly known as intelligence and will now be known as public security; Major Santiago Fundora, director of finance, supply, and logistics; Major Octavio Samudio, appointed to the Combined Board; and Major Augusto Villalaz, director of the Panamanian Air Force.

[Announcer] Arias Calderon also appointed Inspector Leslie Loaiza as the new director of the National Department of Investigations, DENI. Arias Calderon said that the DENI will later be reorganized into a more scientific judicial police not linked to the Public Force, so it can help the Justice Ministry in criminal investigations as is done in Costa Rica and other countries. Arias Calderon also said that Jorge de la Guardia has been appointed new IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] director.

Foreign Minister Takes Office, Makes Statement

PA2212203889 (Clandestine) La Red Patriotica de Divulgacion de la Verdad in Spanish to Panama 2000 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] We will now hear an address by Julio Linares following his appointment by our president, Guillermo Endara Galimany, as the new foreign minister.

[Begin Linares recording] I had never imagined that I would some day assume the responsibility of being at the head of the Foreign Ministry of Panama, or that I would have to assume this post during the difficult and chaotic times that the Republic is experiencing.

It would have been easier for me to stay out of the new government, but as a Panamanian I feel that I have the grave responsibility, and beyond that responsibility the duty, to work with all Panamanians, with all my countrymen, to help rebuild the Republic.

We have three responsibilities and three obligations. In the first place we have to establish the basis for a solid democracy in such a way that our children and grandchildren will never have to experience what we have had to go through. We also have to again consolidate our independence. We also have to consolidate once again our sovereignty because, unfortunately, the ambitions of those who ruled us have left us with a fatherland that has sufferred intervention.

Nevertheless, I am sure that with the help of all Panamanians, with the help of all those who truly believe in democracy, justice, and freedom, we will rebuild our country, because our fatherland deserves it. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Linares Outlines Foreign Policy

PA2612042489 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2349 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Julio Linares by reporter Julio Miller at the Foreign Ministry in Panama City on 25 December—recorded]

[Text] [Linares] Although no one can applaud an invasion—and I stress that to the Panamanian people this invasion has become, rather than an invasion, a liberation movement—this one has had a positive effect. It is putting us on the path of democracy, freedom, and justice, that all Panamanians have long desired.

[Miller] There is a question that we Panamanians have been asking: How can Panama's foreign policy be defined in the present circumstances?

[Linares] Well, on Panamanian foreign policy with regard to the United States, which is the most immediate issue because we have U.S. troops in our country, I can say that we will make a maximum effort to have the U.S. troops remain as short a time as possible in Panama. Second, the Panama Canal Treaties will be implemented as signed. In other words, on 31 December 1999, the Panama Canal and all its installations will revert to Panama. This will refute the charge that the sole purpose of the opposition's efforts was to give the canal to the Americans. I repeat that on 31 December 1999, the canal will return to Panama, as far as we are concerned.

In addition, we believe that the best defense of the Panama Canal is for it to be neutral. This is so because, since Panama is a poor country with sparse resources, it must look to law and justice to achieve what it cannot achieve by means of guns. So much for foreign policy regarding the United States.

As for foreign policy in general, to mention only two points, we will try at all times to act fairly, in line with international morality and the tenets of international law. Unfortunately, countries frequently depart from international morality and international norms of conduct, but any strength that small countries have in the international community depends to a great extent on their moral authority. We are prepared and determined to have Panama achieve great moral authority.

To conclude comments on this issue, Panama wants to deepen its international relations with all truly democratic countries, particularly after the antidemocratic obscurantism that we have experienced for 21 years.

[Miller] What does this imply for relations with Cuba, Nicaragua, and Libya?

[Linares] That is something that will have to be addressed in due time within the cabinet.

[Miller] Dr. Linares, another question concerns whether the new government will now sign secret agreements with the United States that involve ceding national territory. This is one of the main questions being asked by certain sectors in Panama. What is the foreign minister's position in this regard?

[Linares] You can be certain that, as long as I am foreign minister, no agreement will be signed with the United States, either with or without the people's knowledge, that involves ceding Panamanian territory. I speak for myself, but I dare to say that as long as President Endara is president of this country, no such agreement will be signed, either.

[Miller] From the standpoint of public international law, what are the true implications of General Noriega's request for asylum?

[Linares] Well, as far as we know—and I speak frankly, although many people will believe that I am not telling the truth—the apostolic nuncio has not told us officially that Gen. Noriega has requested political asylum. The only thing that I can tell you on the subject is that yesterday, 24 December, at approximately 1400, Monsignor Laboa, the apostolic nuncio, called me by telephone to tell me that Gen. Noriega was at the Nunciature. In other words, he was telling me a fact—that Noriega was at the Nunciature—but he did not specify in what capacity. As of today, we had not received any official note from the Nunciature, and this is obviously because, before addressing this Foreign Ministry, the Nunciature will have to evaluate the conditions under which Gen. Noriega is there. As soon as we receive an official notification from the Nunciature, we will be able to give our position. However, until the Nunciature communicates with us officially, it would be indiscreet and not very diplomatic for me to venture to express an opinion.

[Miller] The international press has reported that Foreign Minister Julio Linares was at the Nunciature yesterday. Your car was seen and it was said that talks of some kind were carried out. Is this true?

[Linares] That is true. I had a meeting at the Nunciature at 1600 yesterday with the diplomatic corps. Moreover, that meeting had been scheduled before I knew that Gen. Noriega was at the Nunciature. The meeting with the diplomatic corps is something that occurs normally when a new minister is appointed. As you will understand, the fact that the Foreign Ministry is serving as the seat of government made it impossible for that meeting with the diplomatic corps—which should properly have been held at the Foreign Ministry—to take place here. That is why I asked Msgr. Laboa, in his capacity as dean of the diplomatic corps, to arrange a meeting of the diplomatic corps that I would attend to have that first contact. At that meeting, absolutely nothing was discussed regarding Gen. Noriega's presence there.

[Miller] Dr. Linares, in your opinion as an expert in public international law, what are the implications of Gen. Noriega's presence at the Nunciature in view of the U.S. and Panamanian demand that he be brought to trial?

[Linares] I do not wish to comment on this, because I would be anticipating an action, namely, a request from the Nunciature. As long as the Nunciature has not requested anything from me, I cannot express an opinion on this.

Political Parties End Resistance to U.S. Action

FL2512033889 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0258 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 24 December (NOTIMEX)—The Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) and the Labor Party today terminated their armed resistance against the U.S. invasion after it was announced that General Manuel Antonio Noreiga sought asylum in the Apostolic Nunciature. The parties were considered the principal groups in the coalition government under the Noriega regime. The two parties declared themselves to be in democratic and peaceful opposition to the government imposed by the invaders.

In their respective communiques, the parties regretted the loss of lives and damage suffered by Panama. At the same time, they condemned the brutal aggression of the United States, which they called unjustified and in violation of the conduct of modern nations.

The groups demanded that the new government, presided over by Guillermo Endara, ensure the necessary political guarantees for the political parties, as well as security for the people and property belonging to the opposition groups.

Military units in the interior of the country negotiated with the invading forces during the past few days to avoid greater loss of life.

U.S. Surrounds Cuban Ambassador's Residence

PA2512234489 Paris AFP in Spanish 2225 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 25 Dec (AFP)—Newsmen from the Cuban press agency PRENSA LATINA have reported that today at noon some 100 U.S. soldiers in approximately 12 armored personnel carriers "surrounded" the residence of Cuban Ambassador Lazaro Mora, in the exclusive Altos del Golf neighborhood in the southeastern part of the capital.

The sources said that "there is a lot of tension" on the embassy grounds. Several Cuban diplomats are inside the residence, as well as 29 women and 19 children who have sought refuge there.

The Cuban, Nicaraguan, and Libyan embassies have been surrounded by U.S. marines since Wednesday, when the U.S. launched an intervention operation to overthrow and apprehend former chief of government General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Meanwhile, a radio station that supports the new government of Guillermo Endara claims that legislator Rigoberto Paredes, a member of the Democratic Revolutionary Party that supports Noriega, was apprehended today in the town of Chorrera, 30 km west of the capital.

In Panama City, the owners have reopened the doors of the newspaper LA PRENSA, which was shut down by the Noriega regime 1 year ago.

LA PRENSA Director Winston Robles said that the newspaper will file a suit against the former head of the Panama Defense Forces, who has sought asylum in the Apostolic Nunciature; former attorney general Carlos Villalaz; and former Government Minister Rodolfo Chiari for the damages caused to the installations during an Army raid more than 1 year ago.

Ruben Carles, one of the newspaper's major shareholders, said that the Noriega forces carried away "the files, the strongboxes, paintings, and computers."

On 24 December, the "Museum House" of the late General Omar Torrijos, who headed the military coup 21 years ago that gave rise to the so-called "Revolutionary Process," was totally destroyed in the pillaging that occurred following the U.S. invasion.

General Noriega, who sought refuge at the Papal Nunciature in Panama City on 24 December after U.S. troops had conducted an intense 5-day search for him, remained at the Nunciature today while European ambassadors tried to make arrangements for some country to grant him asylum.

The Nunciature is surrounded by U.S. soldiers and several helicopters are overflying the area.

For his part, President Endara today told a radio station linked to his government that Noriega's presence at the

Nunciature was a "very delicate" situation, and that consequently "we are handling the situation with utmost care."

Endara added that the Vatican and the United States will have to find a solution to the case of the former Panamanian strongman. The U.S. search for Noriega has practically become the greatest "manhunt" that anyone can remember.

Over the weekend there has been an acute shortage of fuel in the country, and the authorities are trying to resolve a shortage of staples, which has worsened because of the spectacular wave of sackings that the city witnessed following the U.S. invasion.

It has been reported that bus service might resume in this capital tomorrow. In the meantime, today the "Sanitation Department" and U.S. troops were carrying out a clean-up operation and were helping to remove debris in the areas that were most affected by the bombing of the U.S. Air Force.

Intense Shooting Confirmed Near Cuban Embassy

PA2612014689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0102 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 25 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—U.S. troops stationed in front of the Provisional Presidency of Panama have been engaged in intense gunfire against still unidentified targets since 1846 (2346 GMT).

Javier Herrera, secretary of the Spanish Embassy, which is in that area, confirmed the report. He added that a building next to the Chamber of Commerce and to the Cuban Embassy "is in flames."

However, a Cuban source denied rumors that it was a shootout betwen U.S. troops and men inside the Cuban Embassy, which is surrounded by U.S. troops.

Herrera said that the gunfire is so intense that personnel of the Spanish Embassy, located in front of the new presidency, had to move to inner rooms for protection.

Until now it has not been possible to obtain a statement from the U.S. Southern Command. The Southern Command, however, confirmed the shooting and said that it has dozens of soldiers and many armored vehicles deployed in the Plaza Porras, around which are the presidency building and the Spanish and the Cuban embassies.

Our reporters could not reach the area because of the curfew in effect throughout the city.

The presidency is temporarily located at the Foreign Ministry building because the original presidency occupied by the government overthrown by the U.S. invasion on 20 December was completely looted.

As night fell, many helicopters were still overflying the city, apparently engaged in operations to locate some groups of Noriega's followers. Noriega, who is wanted by the U.S. Government, has sought refuge at the Nunciature.

Country 'Slowly Returning to Normal'

PA2412030489 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0011 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 23 Dec (DPA)—Four days after the U.S. invasion of Panama, the country is slowly returning to normal, and the U.S. soldiers, who in other times were called aggressors, are now being applauded and received as heroes for having removed General Manuel Noriega from power.

In various parts of the capital, Panamanians who had organized to prevent the generalized pillaging that the country has been confronting in the past 3 days applauded the U.S. tanks and military police as they advanced along the main avenues and neighborhoods in search of General Noriega and the few forces that still support him.

In contrast, in the poor area of Panama Viejo, the location of the Panama Defense Forces Cavalry garrison, a small private truck was transporting partially decomposed bodies followed by sobbing relatives and residents who were helping pick up other victims of the fighting in the country.

In the sectors of La Pulida, Tumba Muerto, and Balboa Avenue, close to the bombed state radio station, there is the stench of the dead bodies that have not been taken to hospital morgues.

Local newsman Leonel Blaisdell told DPA that he visited the morgue at the Santo Tomas Hospital and saw so many bodies that one practically has to "walk on the corpses." He said he had seen the bodies of Benjamin Colamarco, commander of the Dignity Battalions, former pro-Noriega legislators Luis Gomez and Rigoberto Paredes, and former Mayor Balbina de Perignan.

Panamanians, now that the fighting is dying down, have begun to cooperate wtih the U.S. Army by reporting the location of the arsenals of forces loyal to Noriega. In one instance, a woman and her son alerted a U.S. patrol to an arsenal in Urraca Park.

With the presence of the U.S. Military Police in the capital, the few businesses that were not looted during the past week reopened their doors in a controlled manner for a few hours. There were long lines at these places.

FDP Officers 'Seeking' Ways To Surrender

PA2212160889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1457 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 22 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Several Panama Defense Forces [FDP] officers, who have been

hiding in various parts of the capital and country since the U.S. invasion began, are seeking a way to surrender to the new government headed by President Guillermo Endara, according to a communique released by a police captain.

Captain Manuel Gonzalez, who is in the capital, along with 12 sergeants and sublieutenants, called ACAN-EFE to state his desire to surrender "to the new government." He said that his attitude is shared "by many other officers."

"I heard Endara's appeal and I think we must report to rebuild the police and end the looting," the officer said, referring to Endara's statement offering guarantees to those who surrender.

Gonzalez added that "many people want to join the new government." He noted that he spoke with Major Francisco Porras, director of the "Benjamin Ruiz" Officers School, who, according to him, also wants to place himself at the service of the new authorities.

"Panama needs us, and this is no time to think of hatred or rancor," Gonzalez said, wondering if the new government had already appointed a "new commander."

Asked who could be the new FDP commander, he suggested Colonel Eduardo Herrera, who has been exiled in the United States for more than 2 years for opposing General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The captain voiced his concern over the difficulty implied by his surrendering to the new government. "We do not want to be detained along with hoodlums," he said.

He said he called the U.S. Embassy and spoke to an official who asked him to remain with his companions where he was.

Fighting Breaks Out Again in San Miguelito

PA2212184489 Paris AFP in Spanish 1736 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Report by Jaime Aparicio]

[Text] Panama City, 22 Dec (AFP)—Dozens of armed civilians, who are Dignity Battalion members, were fighting today against U.S. Army troops in the populous neighborhood of San Miguelito, 13 km to the northeast of Panama City. This area is the biggest center of resistance in the U.S. invasion of Panama.

The Dignity Battalions—who are General Noriega's paramilitary troops — and soldiers in civilian clothings were moving around the area in private vehicles, carrying AK-47 automatic rifles and 38-mm rifles.

The population has remained at home—despite U.S. warnings to evacuate the area—and placed white flags on their rooftops with the hope of not being bombed.

Up to now, San Miguelito has not been bombed, although the U.S. Air Force has machine-gunned resistance centers located in Cerro Patacon and La Librada neighborhoods.

Tracer bullets shot from U.S. aircrafts to this areas could be observed from Panama City this morning.

U.S. soldiers are making a house-to-house searches in San Francisco, a middle-class neighborhood in Panama City. They carry maps in their hands and are looking for alleged civilians and military personnel loyal to Noriega.

Witnesses have said that if people do not open their doors, the U.S. soldiers knock the doors down by shooting light artillery and then they drag all of the people out.

A diplomatic observer stated that these actions were "a witch hunt" by the invading army.

Meanwhile, the Chorrera Military Garrison, 23 km to the west of Panama City, and the ones in Cocle, Veraguas, Herrera, and Chiriqui have expressed their loyalty to Noriega.

"We are behind Commander Noriega up to the last bullet and ready to resist the gringos and die for the fatherland," said an officer in the Chitre Garrison, some 280 km to the west of Panama City.

Eyewitnesses reported that Dignity Battalions and elite troops headed for the mountains and are controlling the strategic Pan-American Highway in Panama's countryside.

According to unconfirmed reports, Dignity Battalion Commander Benjamin Colamarco, Noriega's military police Commander Moises Cortizo, and leftist parliamentarian Luis Gomez have reportedly died in combat.

During a radio broadcast, an opposition spokesman reported that the David Garrison, the most important one in Chiriqui Province, surrendered to U.S. troops.

In "El Chorrillo," a neighborhood of 25,000 residents located 1 km from the Southern Command, the Panama Defense Forces headquarters was totally destroyed, and some 125 wooden houses were burned down by the fire started by the shelling.

On that site, more than 100 bodies of Panamanian soldiers and civilians lie charred amid the burned houses.

It is presumed that Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Arosemena and elite troops of the Tigers of Tinajitas continue to resist the invasion in Patacon Hill, which has been shelled in the past 2 days.

In the 9 January, Los Andes, and Santa Librada neighborhoods of San Miguelito District, U.S. troops on 21 December began to evacuate the residents and announced upcoming shelling to combat the troops loyal to Noriega.

The main capital city airports of Tocumen and Paitilla were occupied on 21 December by Marines after destroying them with bombs the previous afternoon.

Pro-U.S. President Guillermo Endara, who was installed on 21 December, has announced that newspapers LA PRENSA and EXTRA, which Noriega had closed down, will reopen at noontime today.

However, Winston Robles, LA PRENSA's associate director, ruled out that possibility, because "we have received no guarantees from our creditors and insurers."

Military Zone Chief Expresses Loyalty to Endara

PA2212215889 Chitre Radio Provincias in Spanish 2115 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Statement by Major Javier Jurado from the 4th Military Zone in Herrera Province—recorded]

[Text] The Public Forces, which are loyal to the Constitution of the Republic that is headed by his excellency President Guillermo Endara, have opened our garrison's doors to the people of Herrera. We will guarantee their security, calm, and social peace.

We are assuming this position to prevent further bloodshed and look after the interests of all citizens. We also want you to know that the situation in the country is one of complete calm and absolute control.

His Excellency the president of the Republic today honored me by promoting me to major and appointed me commander of the 4th Military Zone. I repeat that the doors of our garrison are open to all citizens to closely cooperate with the decisions of the president. Thank you very much.

FDP Forces in Chiriqui Reportedly Surrender

PA2312003189 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2352 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Panama City, 22 Dec (EFE)—[passage omitted] Several Panama Defense Forces [FDP] officers have admitted to EFE that the FDP has been virtually smashed since Wednesday, because all of its major garrisons, as well as its means of communication and chain of command have been destroyed.

Several garrisons in the interior of the country, which had not yet been attacked by the U.S. forces, announced today that they were going to surrender.

Following negotiations with the U.S. Southern Command, in which the Catholic Church played a role, the FDP headquarters in Chiriqui Province and the "Peace Battalion" from the same region, surrendered to U.S. forces today. The FDP headquarters is in the city of David, close to the Costa Rican border.

This report was confirmed to EFE by the bishopric in David and by a corporal in the headquarters, by the surname Mojica, who said: "All we have here is peace and love after the soldiers who had gone into the mountains returned and turned in their weapons." [passage omitted]

Cuban, Nicaraguan Guerrillas Found in Tinajita

PA2312051689 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 0449 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] The Tinajita bunker was taken this morning, and many Cuban and Nicaraguan guerrilla fighters were still hiding there. The bunker was in the central headquarters. The entrance to the bunker was broken into, and it had already been raided. A large amount of cocaine was found there and also documents linking General Manuel Antonio Noriega to drug trafficking and money laundering.

Dignity Battalions Reportedly Planning Attacks

PA2312165589 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 23 Dec (DPA)—For the first time today the U.S. troops that invaded Panama on 20 December deployed armored personnel carriers and soldiers bearing M-70 submachine guns in the district of San Miguelito. This is the most heavily populated district in the country, and it is here that the largest group of resistance that continues to support General Manuel Antonio Noriega has converged.

Early this morning several mountainous sectors of San Miguelito were bombed from the air and shelled with mortar rounds, while U.S. soldiers occupied the district's main avenue.

It is not yet known how many people were hurt in the shelling, but an unofficial source told DPA that the number of wounded persons attended to at the emergency room of the Santo Tomas Hospital rose threefold due to the fighting and the pillaging carried out yesterday and this morning. Many of the wounded died before they reached the operating room, and a source told DPA that the number of dead might be more than 1,500.

Vehicular traffic in the capital is slowly returning to normal. Very few vehicles are on the streets, mainly small passenger vehicles that are taking canal area employees and the doctors and nurses who work in the public hospitals to work.

As the morning wears on, U.S. Air Force combat planes have once again begun overflying the Panamanian capital. The U.S. Army has announced that it is paying a reward of from $25 to $5,000 to Panamanians who turn in their arms and ammunition.

For their part, sources linked to the resistance movement that supports General Manuel Antonio Noriega told DPA that the Dignity Battalions are currently reorganizing to launch new attacks on the U.S. troops.

Reports from Chiriqui Province, on the border with Costa Rica, claim that Colonel Del Cid, the chief of the Panama Defense Forces headquarters there, has surrendered, and that he has turned the garrison over to a captain who recognizes the new president, Guillermo Endara.

It has also been announced that the occupation troops will guard the public market today, so that the people can buy vegetables and the other types of foodstuffs that are sold there.

10th Military Zone Troops Surrender

PA2412005389 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0019 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] About 950 troops of the PDF's [Panama Defense Forces] 10th Military Zone in the west Panama sector turned themselves in this afternoon, according to our correspondent in La Chorrera, Manuel Barrios.

The whereabouts of Major Manuel Sieiro are not known. He is the former commander of the 10th Military Zone, which is now under the command of Lt. Col (?Rock) of the U.S. Army South.

Our correspondent states that calm has returned to La Chorrera, although there are still some pockets of resistance outside the city.

Zone Commander Sieiro Surrenders

PA2412035989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0240 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 23 Dec (DPA)—This afternoon Manuel Sieiro, General Manuel Antonio Noriega's brother-in-law and commander of the 10th Military Zone in La Chorrera, 32 km from the capital, turned himself in to U.S. troops, who invaded Panama on 20 December. This information was supplied to DPA tonight by a relative of his.

Manuel Sieiro's brother, Colonel Aquilino Sieiro, voluntarily surrendered to U.S. forces 2 days ago. Manuel and Aquilino are brothers of Felicidad Sieiro de Noriega, Gen. Noriega's former wife [as received], and of Ramon Sieiro, former first vice presidential candidate for the ruling party in the annulled 7 May elections.

Finance Minister, Other Officials Captured

PA2412152489 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1500 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 24 Dec (DPA)—Three high-ranking officials of General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime, including Finance Minister Orville Goodin, were captured on 23 December by the U.S. occupation troops. Some $4 million and a plan to destroy the capital were found during the raid.

Rafael Mezquita and Revenue Director Raul Levy, whom Endara's government accuses of leaving the Finance and Treasury Ministry's coffers empty, were also caught. The U.S. Army made two attempts to capture these high-ranking members of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), who operated from the house of Dr. Jorge Montalban, director of a program on the educational television channel. The paramilitary forces put up resistance during the second attempt, but they were defeated at approximately 2300. Some of the Dignity Battalion members managed to escape.

A large amount of money was found during the raids and, according to unofficial sources close to Endara's government, it could be as much as $4 million.

Their captures have been termed a "harsh blow" to the urban guerrilla network which was being organized for a new counteroffensive on 26 December, when government workers are scheduled to return to work.

Three High-Ranking Officers Surrender

PA2412164489 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1605 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] This morning, at approximately 1000 [1500 GMT], Lieutenant Colonels Carlos Arosemena King, Daniel Delgado Diamante, and Arnulfo Castrejon voluntarily turned themselves in to Colonel Roberto Armijo, chief of the Panamanian Public Force, answering the call to lay down their weapons and join the armed institution in defense of our people's security. Accompanied by Colonel Eduardo Herrera Hassan, second commander in chief of the Panamanian Public Force, Lieutenant Colonels Arosemena King, Delgado Diamante, and Arnulfo Castrejon, talked to Col. Armijo and expressed their willingness to contribute to the national effort to avoid a confrontation. Col. Armijo reiterated the will to guarantee the personal safety of all the members of the institution who will approach the general command's headquarters, functioning from the Ancon Traffic Offices where thousands of comrades at arms have patriotically responded to the call of the new Panamanian Public Force. Col. Armijo reiterated that this same call is being made to all the groups and people who are armed, to set aside their differences and join in the hard work that the Public Force is doing to guarantee the lives, honor, and property of the people.

U.S. Troops Occupy David Without Resistance

PA2512225489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2157 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] Panama City, 25 Dec (ACAN)—Correspondents from the RPC radio station have reported that, without firing a single shot, U.S. troops today occupied the Panamanian city of David, the third largest city in the country. David, located close to the border with Costa Rica, is the capital of Chiriqui province.

According to the correspondents, U.S. planes began flying over David early this morning. Later in the day they were joined by helicopter gunships, and then the troops arrived.

The U.S. soldiers rapidly secured the airport and took over the Panamanian Army's headquarters in David. An announcement was made on Thursday that the garrison would surrender to the new government led by Guillermo Endara.

According to the RPC correspondents, the Panamanian soldiers who were on guard in front of the garrison were withdrawn and replaced with U.S. soldiers, amid cheers and applause from many Panamanian citizens.

Panamanian Lieutenant Colonel Luis Del Cid, commander of the Chiriqui military zone, left the garrison accompanied by U.S. soldiers.

Most of the Panamanian garrisons in the interior of the country surrendered without putting up a fight, 48 hours after the U.S. military invasion began at midnight Tuesday.

Argentina

Further Fallout From U.S. Action in Panama

Cavallo on Recognizing Endara, OAS Vote

PY2312032289 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo has spoken with this radio station on the critical situation in Panama:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Domingo Cavallo granted an interview to this radio station to explain the meeting he held with U.S. Ambassador Terence Todman, who conveyed to Cavallo his annoyance over the demonstrations against the U.S. invasion of Panama that have taken place in Buenos Aires.

[Cavallo] Each ambassador, whether from Panama, Nicaragua, or the United States, has the media at their disposal as usual to convey the points of view of their respective countries.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry has stated the position of the Argentine Government and each sector of Argentine society has been able to do the same. The people's rights and the principles of press freedom are in force in Argentina. Therefore, we are responsible for our own opinion, which we have officially released. We are also very respectful of the opinion [words indistinct] which was freely expressed. That is all I can say on this issue.

[Reporter] Is the Argentine Government going to recognize, or what means will it use to recognize, Guillermo Endara's government in Panama?

[Cavallo] The Argentine Government is following events and closely observing the situation. It will act with great prudence because the well-being and lives of many people are at stake. The principles related to relations among states are at stake, as are the relations between Argentina and the United States, a very important aspect of our foreign policy. Our relations with the other countries of Latin America are also at stake.

This is why we are evaluating the situation. We are trying to act with the greatest prudence and in a very coherent manner according to the principles that Argentina has advocated in its foreign policy.

[Reporter] What is the Argentine position, and how did it vote at the OAS [words indistinct].

[Cavallo) We were one of the twenty votes in favor of the OAS declaration last night. In addition to the 20 votes in favor, there were six abstentions and one vote against it. [end recording]

We also talked with Foreign Minister Cavallo about the Cabinet meeting he held to brief the ministers on the Argentine position and the current situation in Panama. This is what he said:

[Begin recording] The ministers unanimously agree with the actions of the Foreign Ministry on this issue. I also explained to them our future actions because I am the minister responsible for this area. [end recording]

Cavallo also explained the Argentine position regarding the United States and their future relations, whether they may deteriorate or not. He said:

[Begin recording] [Cavallo] We hope that the very good relations we have with the United States will not be affected.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] for the Latin American countries to recognize the Guillermo Endara government. Is this not an indirect way for the countries to speed up recognition?

[Cavallo] Look, this was not only mentioned by Aronson [U.S. assistant secretary for inter-American affairs], it was also mentioned in the talks between Bush and Menem and, yesterday, this issue was presented by the U.S. ambassador. We are keeping in mind U.S. opinion, but this is a decision we are going to make after a very careful evaluation of all the circumstances. [end recording]

Domingo Cavallo said that President Bush and the U.S. ambassador requested that the Argentine Government recognize Guillermo Endara's government and that Argentina is currently studying the situation.

Congressmen Reject U.S. Action

PY2312154689 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1006 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Dec (NA)—Adolfo Gass, head of the Radical Party senators' bloc, has proposed OAS intervention in the Panamanian conflict to promote and supervise free and democratic elections in Panama.

In the midst of several requests from the leftist parties calling for a firmer attitude from the government regarding diplomatic matters, the national Cabinet analyzed the latest news about the U.S. invasion, which was reported by the Foreign Ministry.

Gass, who is the deputy chairman of the Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee, pointed out: "The immediate withdrawal of the U.S. troops and the proposed elections would put an end to Washington's reproachable interventionist attitude and help restore democracy in the brotherly nation."

Senator Gass charged Noriega with being "an authoritarian man, who is involved in extremely serious crimes." He added: "The U.S. invasion violated the sacred principle of self-determination."

"We must, therefore, reject the de facto regime the invaders are trying to impose, and thus deny Guillermo Endara the right to govern Panama, because he exhorted his people to surrender to the invaders."

Gass said: "For this reason, OAS intervention is urgently required so that, by the promotion and supervision of free elections, the suffering of our Panamanian brothers can end."

In the name of the Movement Toward Socialism (MAS), provincial Deputy Silvia Diaz made the most drastic demand. She demanded that U.S. Ambassador to Argentina Terence Todman "leave," because he "is not only the representative of a government and an army that are conducting a savage invasion, but is also acting as if he were a viceroy and giving the Argentines orders on what they should or should not say."

Marcelo Vensentini, who heads the Intransigent Party's Buenos Aires Province office, and Pedro Garcia, who heads the party's Federal District office, called Todman a "sepoy" and declared it "unacceptable" for an ambassador "to justify, at the end of the 20th century, an invasion such as that of Panama and to criticize the Argentine Government's sovereign decision to repudiate such an invasion."

Garcia and Vensentini also wondered: "How is it possible for a black ambassador, who is a member of one of the most exploited and discriminated races in the world and in the United States, to deny the right the people have to self-determination and to defend their own sovereignty?"

The Patriotic Movement for Liberation has suggested "breaking diplomatic relations with the United States, creating an official committee of solidarity with the Panamanian Government and people, and starting a list of Argentines citizens who "volunteer" to fight in the Central American country.

The bloc of Buenos Aires Radical Party senators also repudiated the invasion and presented a draft declaration stating that the U.S. action violates the basic principles of the international community. The draft makes clear, however, that this rejection "does not foresee the recognition of the republican legitimacy of the current Panamanian regime."

The Popular Intransigent Party has stated: "None of the excuses cynically presented by the U.S. President are enough to hide the real reasons for the invasion, which are known to all. The invasion is aimed at preventing the brotherly Panamanian nation from recovering the Panama Canal before the end of the century."

The Labor and People's Party expressed its "total solidarity with the Panamanian Government and people," and called for "an urgent mobilization of the working class, of the people, and of all patriotic and democratic sectors to demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the invaders."

ILACA Deplores 'Genocidal Action'

PY2312211889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2022 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] The Latin American and Caribbean Integration [Integracion Latinoamericana y Caribena] (ILACA) group has repudiated the "genocidal action" of the United States in Panama, which has "caused thousands of civilian deaths, chaos, and destruction."

The ILACA declaration, which was signed by Colonel Horacio Ballester, retired, Norberto Lorenzo, and Raul Aragon, states that the U.S. intervention in Panama "aborts" the "hope generated" by the agreement reached in Malta by U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The declaration states that the U.S. intervention adds to "the unfortunate history of relations between the United States and South America."

Demonstrations Against U.S. Action

PY2312174889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1350 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Dec (NA)—A large number of demonstrators marched last night from Callao and Corrientes Streets to the Embassy of Panama [as received] to protest the U.S. invasion of that country. The demonstration was sponsored by the Intransigent Party, the Social Affirmation Movement, the Worker Power Party, the Liberation Broad Front, the United Left, the Labor Party, Free Fatherland, the Anti-imperialist People's Democratic Movement, Buenos Aires Peronist Youth, Buenos Aires Radical Civic Union Youth, and the PTS [expansion unknown]. The march slogan was "Out of Panama and Latin America, Yankees."

In a joint declaration, the sponsors asked all Latin American governments and people to consider this U.S. invasion "like that of the Malvinas, an agression against all Latin America." They also called on the region's governments "to break diplomatic relations with the aggressor and to expel the U.S. ambassadors like Terence Todman, who has the insolence to meddle in Argentine internal affairs and to condemn those who raise their voices against the piratical action of the Yankee imperialism."

The sponsors also called for "expressing solidarity with the government and brotherly people of Panama by sending food, medicines, and volunteers," and asked "the CGT [General Workers Confederation] and labor unions to actively coordinate joint actions" with other labor confederations of the region.

Some sectors of the Peronist Youth caused incidents, objecting to the leaders who were to head the march. Among those leaders were Eduardo Sigal (Communist Party), Nestor Vicente (People's Democratic Left), Luis

Zamora (Social Affirmation Movement), and Daniel Rapanelli (Worker Power Party).

Noriega Role in Villa Martelli Denied

PY2312205589 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1902 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 23 Dec (NA)—Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo has denied that the Panamanian Government assisted Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin in returning to Argentina and organizing the Villa Martelli uprising in December 1988.

Cavallo made this report in reply to statements made by Bernard Aronson, U.S. assistant secretary for inter-American affairs. While justifying the U.S. invasion of Panama, Aronson accused Noriega of having intervened in Argentine domestic affairs.

In reply, Minister Cavallo said: "No. We know that Col Seineldin was serving in Panama and that he arrived in Argentina when the Villa Martelli uprising was being prepared." Cavallo added: "We understand that the uprising was the result of a decision by Argentine men who were involved in the issue. We have no evidence that the uprising was organized abroad or that it received support from abroad." [passage omitted]

In statements to the newspaper SUR, Cavallo also said that President Carlos Menem "had expressed his concern "to President Bush when he informed Menem of the arrival of U.S. troops in Panama. [quotation marks as received] [passage omitted]

Plane Sent To Evacuate Citizens

PY2412011389 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0004 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Dec (TELAM)—The Argentine Foreign Ministry has announced that the National Government sent an Argentine Air Force plane to Panama at 2100 today to "evacuate to Argentina the relatives of personnel accredited to the Panamanian Government and any Argentine citizen who wishes to come."

According to Jose Luis Fernandez Valoni, Foreign Ministry under secretary for Latin American relations, "the airplane will first make a stopover in San Jose, Costa Rica. Two Foreign Ministry officials will be on the plane to coordinate this operation, which has been ordered because of the serious situation in Panama."

Plane Returns Safely

PY2612122889 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1002 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Dec (DYN)—The Argentine plane that was sent to Panama to pick up Argentine residents has arrived at the Ezeiza International Airport. All the passengers are safe.

Vice President Returns From Colombia, Venezuela

PY2312135089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1251 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Dec (TELAM)—Argentina Vice President Eduardo Duhalde today advocated "a common Latin American front" against drug trafficking and promised that "the appropriate mechanisms to accomplish this goal will be set in motion early in 1990."

Duhalde made this statement upon returning fromn his 4-day tour through Colombia and Venezuela, where he held talks with the presidents of those countries and gave several lectures on the prevention of drug addiction.

Government Reaches Agreement With Paris Club

PY2312012489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1926 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Paris, 21 Dec (TELAM)—Argentina reached an agreement with the Paris Club this afternoon to refinance its financial obligations for the 1 July 1988 - 31 March 1991 period, which involves expired payments for capital and interest for approximately $2.8 billion.

The act was signed at 1430 (local time) by Argentine foreign debt negotiator Carlos Carballo and the creditors' representative, Jean Claude Trichet, who emphasized the industrialized countries' desire "to cooperate in the reconstruction process" of Argentina.

Carballo explained that the agreement will allow a rescheduling of the expired payments over 10 years with a 6-year grace period. This situation "will improve the terms of the financing obtained in 1987" and "will be an important relief for the external sector in the short and medium term."

Upon closing the negotiations, Carballo emphasized his government's "commitment" to "establish a foundation for an economy without inflation and facilitate the path toward a process of sustained growth in production, income, and employment to improve the population's standard of living."

He noted that the rescheduling of external obligations "will help to normalize the financial relations of Argentina with governments of the developed countries and facilitate access to credits to get capital goods and advanced technology."

Trichet emphasized "the seriousness and efforts of the Argentine Government in its struggle against inflation" and the "predisposition" of the industrialized countries "to cooperate in the Argentine reorganization process."

In this regard, Carballo said that "this agreement opens the way for financing large infrastructure projects, which are essential for the development of the country and were paralyzed by the serious inbalances that affected our economy."

The signing was attended by members of the creditor banks and representatives from France, Belgium, Switzerland, the United States, Japan, the FRG, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Denmark, England, Finland, Israel, Norway, and Canada.

Argentina was represented, in addition to Carballo, by assistant delegate Rafael Iniesta and officials from the Economy Ministry and the Central Bank.

Bombs Kill Judge's Son, Destroy Officer's Car

PY2212175789 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1525 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] La Plata, 22 Dec (NA)—Buenos Aires Government Minister Carlos Alvarez has repudiated the two bomb attacks which killed the son of a San Nicolas District judge at home and destroyed an Army officer's car in Buenos Aires.

Alvarez attributed the two attacks to the intent to "create an atmosphere of unrest" in Buenos Aires Province. He announced that preventive police operations will be conducted at "key spots" to prevent any other similar attacks.

Alvarez will go to San Nicolas to personally coordinate the investigation of the bomb explosion at the home of Criminal Judge Oscar Gonzalez at 0025.

The bomb, which killed the judge's 16-year-old son Joaquin, was a "booby trap."

This incident caused great commotion in San Nicolas, where the youth's friends and teachers displayed sadness and consternation at his death.

Father Eduardo Jorge, one of the youth's teachers at the local high school, said that Joaquin "was a cheerful, sincere young man who loved to ride horses and to enjoy nature."

"Joaquin is privileged because this Christmas he will already have reached peace," he added.

At 0300 this morning, a group of unidentified individuals hurled a bomb at an Army officer's car, which was parked at the corner of 44th and 5th Streets in La Plata.

It has been reported that three unidentified people, who were riding a gray Ford Falcon, hurled a bomb at Lieutenant Guillermo Orbello's car and then fled.

The bomb also damaged the car of First Lieutenant Victor Alsina of the 10th Infantry Brigade.

Minister Alvarez admitted that this attack "may be connected" with the attack that destroyed a car in the parking lot of the Libertador Building in Buenos Aires.

Meanwhile, a suspect was wounded when the police raided a home while searching for those responsible for the death of the judge's son. The suspect was taken into custody.

During the shootout, another criminal suspect was able to escape. The raid had been ordered by Judge Carlos Di Lorenzo.

Businessmen Linked to Medellin Cartel Arrested

PY2212022389 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1612 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Buenos Aires 21 Dec (DYN)—The police have reported that this morning two important businessmen, one from the textile industry and the other of the transportation sector, and a drug trafficker closely linked to the Medellin Cartel were arrested. During the operation, 2 kg of pure cocaine and documents of a Swiss bank account were seized.

According to the official report, the investigation was carried out by the Federal Crimes Department. The police officers arrested a businessman of the garment industry who has a shop on 4850 Monroe Avenue in this capital. The police raided the shop and found 1 kg of cocaine.

The police also arrested a share holder of an important transport company of Salta Province who was not identified.

In another operation in a hotel near San Martin Park the police arrested a man from Salta who was carrying 700 grams of cocaine and documents of a Swiss bank account where he deposited the money received for the cocaine sale.

The police also reported that this man is wanted by Interpol. He is closely linked to the Medellin Cartel.

The police added that this individual operated until the middle of last year with another drug trafficker who was arrested in Spain, and that his mission was to act as courier, bringing cocaine from Bolivia to Buenos Aires from where it was taken to Europe and the United States.

A court order prohibits the release of the names of those arrested because the investigation continues.

Judge Jorge Pissarenco filed charges against them for drug trafficking, smuggling, and illegal association to commit crime.

LA RAZON Newspaper To Close

PY2412022889 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Dec 89 p 6

[Summary] The directors of LA RAZON have announced that the newspaper will close following the failure of negotiations with British entrepreneur Robert Maxwell aimed at selling the organ.

Brazil

Sarney Says Government Not To Recognize Endara

PY2312124489 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] President Jose Sarney has announced that the Brazilian Government will not recognize the new Panamanian Government installed by the United States.

Sarney made these remarks before inaugurating the restoration work on the Praia Grande historical center in Sao Luis, Maranhao State.

Sarney received Itamaraty Secretary General Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima at his home at Praia do Calhau. Flecha de Lima reported on the latest events in Panama and on the OAS meeting that condemned the U.S. invasion. Sarney said that the U.S. invasion of Panama is extremely serious and is a step backward in international relations.

[Begin Sarney recording] I must repeat that I consider this invasion a step backward in terms of international relations. The situation in Panama is still chaotic, and the Brazilian position is that we have no tradition regarding recognition of other governments. Therefore, Brazil will not formally recognize the Panamanian government, because we have already established relations with the de facto government [as heard]. [end recording]

Government Issues Statement on Romanian Situation

PY2412013589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2233 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Brasilia, 23 Dec (EFE)—The Brazilian Government today criticized the "violent forces of order of Romania" for the heavy repression they have unleashed on that country. The Brazilian Government has also expressed its support for and solidarity with the Romanian people.

The Brazilian Foreign Ministry released a short communique expressing its desire for the conflicts to end and for peace and order to be restored "with full respect for democratic values and human rights."

"The Brazilian Government has learned of the serious events that have cost Romanian lives over the past few days with consternation and concern," the communique states. The document adds that Brazil "expresses its repudiation of the actions by the violent forces of order that have led to a tragic loss of human lives" and expresses its "solidarity with the suffering of the Romanian people."

Brazil also "deeply laments the existence of victims and hopes that weapons will be put down as soon as possible and that order and harmony will be reestablished in that country with full respect for democratic values and human rights."

TSE Reports Final Vote Tally of Elections

PY2112233689 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] The TSE [Superior Electoral Court] has concluded the presidential election vote tally and the final result was reported in Brasilia a short time ago. Candidate Fernando Collor de Mello obtained 53.03 percent of the valid votes, while candidate Luis Inacio Lula da Silva obtained 46.97 percent. The TSE also reported that there were 11,814,017 abstentions.

The official final vote tally by the TSE is as follows:

Collor: 35,089,998 votes
Lula: 31,076,364 votes
Blank votes: 986,446
Null votes: 3,107,893

This final vote tally establishes that former Alagoas Governor Fernando Collor de Mello is now the president-elect of the Republic. He will hold a news conference tomorrow at 1000 in the same auditorium where the official vote tally was announced.

According to Collor's advisers, he will answer 30 questions, 20 from Brazilian journalists and 10 from foreign journalists. There is no time limit set on this news conference.

SNI Reportedly Destroying Documents

PY2512222089 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Dec 89 p 4

[Text] Brasilia—Military sources accredited to Planalto Palace have reported that a real "clean-up" operation is being carried out at the National Intelligence Service (SNI). The operation, which is aimed at emptying drawers before President-elect Collor de Mello is installed, has been ordered by General Ivan de Souza Mendes, current head of the SNI.

It is already known at the palace that, should President Collor de Mello fulfill the promise he made to extinguish the SNI, this organization could be living out its final days. It will be more difficult, however, to comply with the suggestion made by Claudio Humberto, one of Collor de Mello's advisers. Humberto suggested burning all of the SNI's files, which date back to its creation in 1964.

These files are concentrated at the National Intelligence School in Brasilia's South Police Sector. The secret documents on the lives of Brazilian citizens, whose backgrounds were registered by the SNI in the past, were microfilmed and processed into computer diskettes a short time ago. No one knows what happened to these diskettes. Military officials connected to the SNI refuse to comment on the matter, saying that they can only answer for what was done under Gen Souza Mendes' management. They assert that the SNI strictly complied

with its role of assisting the president of the Republic during this time, without supporting any specific party or tapping phones.

These military men commented calmly on Collor de Mello's plans to abolish the SNI. Collor de Mello says that all that is required is for Congress to revoke the law and definitively extinguish one of the most solid myths of the military era. The SNI was such a solid myth that its creator, the late General Golbery do Couto Silva, once said soon after its creation: "I have created a monster."

Itamaraty Denies Trading Amazon Land for Debt

PY2512222589 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Dec 89 p 4

[Excerpts] Brasilia—Itamaraty yesterday denied rumors that the Brazilian Government had signed protocols giving up parts of the Amazon region in exchange for a $1 billion discount on the foreign debt, as President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello has claimed in a news conference. According to Itamaraty, the Brazilian Government has always been "firmly" against converting the debt into environmental projects. The Brazilian Government believes that these proposals violate national sovereignty and do not solve environmental or debt problems. [passage omitted]

Unrelated to the debt conversion system, Brazil has instituted hundreds of environmental projects, the total cost of which surpasses $1 billion. These projects are prepared by organizations such as SADEN [Secretariat for National Defense Consultation], Ibama [Brazilian Institute for Environmental Affairs and Renewable Natural resources], Cetesb [Technology Company for Environment Control] (Sao Paulo State), and Feema [State Foundation for Environment Engineering] (Rio de Janeiro State). The Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), which is connected to the Itamaraty, has presented these projects mainly to the FRG, Italy, France, and Japan. According to Itamaraty, these projects are not related to discounts on the foreign debt and will not be operated by foreigners.

Chile

Minister Denies Noriega Seeking Asylum

PY2212171389 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz said today that the Chilean Government has received no formal request for asylum from General Manuel Antonio Noriega. Thus, Foreign Minister Errazuriz denied reports in this regard.

Errazuriz said: We will be very surprised if Noriega submits an asylum request because recently the Noriega administration has acted against Chilean interests at the OAS by supporting the Bolivian [maritime] cause.

Errazuriz added: Chilean-Panamanian relations have not been on good terms. Therefore, I seriously doubt Noriega will seek asylum in Chile.

Asked about any asylum request Noriega might submit in the future, Errazuriz said: We will study it as we would any other request, and we will act in accordance with the specific interests of the nation.

Aylwin on 'Respectful' Meeting With Pinochet

PY2212145689 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President-elect Patricio Aylwin yesterday said that his 50-minute meeting with President Augusto Pinochet at La Moneda Palace yesterday afternoon was a serious and mutually respectful affair.

Speaking to approximately 100 national and foreign journalists, Aylwin reported that he talked with Pinochet about his—Aylwin's—objections to laws currently pending approval, his disagreement with the date set for the transfer of power, and about Pinochet's staying on as commander in chief of the Army.

[Aylwin] "I told him that I respect the Constitution, that I plan to govern in keeping with its provisions, and that I expect to have the best possible relations with the Armed Forces, based on mutual respect for the duties of each within its own sphere of action. In line with this attitude, I felt it is my duty to tell him that—with due respect for the power vested in him by the Constitution—to decide whether he should stay on as commander in chief of the Army. I felt it would be better for the country if he did not excersise this power."

According to Aylwin, Pinochet said that things were the other way around and the issue was left pending for a possible future meeting. In response to questions about General Pinochet's reasons for staying on as commander in chief of the Army, Aylwin answered:

[Aylwin] "Basically he told me that his staying on as commander in chief of the Army was the best guarantee that the Army will remain loyal to the Constitution and to the next administration."

The meeting held at La Moneda Palace also served to coordinate ministerial-level contacts for the preparation of the transfer of power.

Aylwin said that his meeting with Pinochet was part of his plan to seek national unity of all Chileans despite their differences. He congratulated himself for having gone to this meeting because he considered that it had been a positive step in the quest for a peaceful, orderly and harmonious transfer of power from the current government to the administration elected by the people.

Further on Meeting

PY2512182689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1630 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] Santiago, 24 Dec (EFE)—President-elect Patricio Aylwin said today that General Augusto Pinochet has demonstrated a positive attitude by recognizing the new upcoming authorities and by not staging a "hateful or unpleasant" transfer of power.

In an interviewed published in the newspaper LA EPOCA, Aylwin said that the Chilean transfer of power will be unusual because normally, when a dictatorship ends, the transfer of power occurs under "violent" conditions.

The Chilean president-elect recognized that this circumstance is the result of a decision made by the dictatorship itself.

In the 3-page interview, Aylwin spoke about his 21 December meeting with Pinochet at La Moneda Palace.

Aylwin said during the 55-minute interview that the meeting with Pinochet had been "mutually respectful," rather than cordial.

Pinochet replied "so you want me to leave," when Aylwin suggested to him that it would be not be best for Chile that he should remain as Army commander.

According to Aylwin, Pinochet told him: "You are wrong, no one will defend Chile better than I." When Aylwin asked for an explanation, Pinochet told him: "You must understand that my people are nervous, and I am calming them."

Aylwin stated that he was impressed by Pinochet's ability, and he said of him: "He is an incredible personality."

In response to a question, the president-elect said that no new meeting with Pinochet has been planned, although the possibility remains open.

Aylwin reiterated that he considers Pinochet's attitude positive because he thought that Pinochet would not want to meet him at all—given the political confrontation they have had in the past few years.

Aylwin added that the meeting with Pinochet will contribute to a peaceful transition, just like the talks that began between the labor organizations and business groups—whose agreements could bring social stability to the country.

Explosion Damages U.S. Cultural Center in Temuco

PY2212212389 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] A bomb explosion in Temuco caused serious damage to the Chilean - U.S. cultural institute. The bomb containing 2 kg of ANFO [ammonimum nitrate-fuel blasting agents] exploded last night at about 0200 GMT. The explosion destroyed some of the building and windows.

The shock wave also damaged nearby buildings, including the city's German Hospital.

No Casualties in Concepcion Bombings

PY2212211789 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Relay by reporter Daniel Valdebenito in Concepcion]

[Text] Thank you, Santiago. For the fourth time in less than 24 hours, terrorists have carried out two more attacks. This time the attacks involved the Treasury and Internal Revenue offices in Concepcion, the capital of the eighth region. No one was injured.

The police have reported that unidentified individuals placed a small explosive device and an incendiary bomb on the first floor of the building where the Treasury and Internal Tax offices operate. The bombs exploded while many people were walking along O'Higgins Avenue in downtown Concepcion.

The Carabineros have pointed out that minor property damage was reported and that, besides the concern caused by the bombings, no one was injured.

Earlier, three powerful ammonium-gelignite bombs exploded in Concepcions Caracol and (Cheque) Hills and near the fourth Carabineros precinct in [name indistinct] shantytown in Talcahuano. These bombings caused concern and panic among the public.

PCCh Calls for Release of Political Prisoners

PY2512161289 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 23 Dec 89

[By Luis Nogueira]

[Text] The proscribed Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] insists on demanding the release of all the terrorists indicted by the courts. The PCCh, however, describes these terrorists as political prisoners.

This was confirmed by Patricia Carrasco, spokesperson of the PCCh women's commission.

[Begin Carrasco recording] We believe that the declaration made by Mr Patricio Aylwin includes the willingness to establish a government under which political prisoners do not exist.

We believe that we must make proposals to solve this problem as we have already said before. These proposals include mentioning the need for all lawsuits involving political prisoners to be transferred to civilian courts. We, therefore, believe it is important to abolish the antiterrorist law.

This is our proposal, and I believe it should not only be a PCCh proposal, but also a demand of the entire nation.

There are compromising laws [leyes de amarre]. There are laws that have been mainly drawn up to repress an entire nation, such as the antiterrorist law and other articles in the Constitution itself. [end recording]

Regarding the appointed senators, Carrasco said that the electoral law has been designed to limit the entry of representatives of the Marxist left into Congress.

Carrasco announced that, at any rate, it will be the social organizations that will have to handle the cases of those detained, missing, or executed.

Carrasco reiterated that the PCCh will not oppose the government of President-elect Patricio Aylwin and that she expects that government to grant legal status to the PCCh.

Locally-Made Helicopter Successfully Tested

PY2512230789 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 20 Dec 89 p C-9

[Excerpts] The first Chilean-made helicopter successfully completed flight tests yesterday at the Los Cerrillos Airport. The Cardoen-206 III multipurpose craft can be used for several civilian activities—including transportation, fighting forest fires, inspecting high-tension lines, fumigation, supervising ocean nursery areas, transporting the sick, and other emergency tasks. [passage omitted]

Carlos Cardoen has confirmed that there are Soviets who are interested in investing in Chilean civilian projects. "We have been holding talks with Soviet enterprises on the possibility of producing massive amounts of staple goods, thus employing Chilean workmanship and technology and bringing sophisticated Soviet techniques and equipment in mining and other sectors to our country."

Colombia

Government, M-19 Suspend Political Pact

PA2312182189 Paris AFP in Spanish 1711 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Bogota, 23 Dec (AFP)—Following a year of intense negotiations in search of a political agreement between the Colombian Government and the leftist 19 April Movement (M-19) aimed at the disarming of the rebel group and its rejoining democratic life, the pact has been suspended by mutual agreement.

The decision, officially announced by the government, was adopted because the Executive Branch was forced to sacrifice its political agreements with the M-19, which should have been approved by the Legislative Branch, to keep the Congress from voting for a referendum on the issue of extradition for those involved in drug trafficking activities.

Even though the government and the armed group agreed to "suspend" the political agreements, they have reiterated their validity and said that "their contents continue to be valid and the signers must make these a reality."

Even though a pardon for the subversives, promoted by Liberal President Virgilio Barco's government, was approved by the Congress, the M-19 warned that for the time being it will not surrender its weapons but that it will continue to seek ways to make the peace objective feasible.

In light of the new situation, the two parties summoned the signers of the political pact and the parties represented in the Colombian parliament to an extraordinary meeting to be held in January in an attempt to redirect the peacemaking process and prevent this process from being frustrated.

Medicine, Food Ready for Shipment to Panama

PY2312201889 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Dec 89

[By Oscar Galvi]

[Text] Medicine and food, including 14 tons of rice, are ready for shipment to Panama. The Foreign Ministry, the Defense Ministry, and the Red Cross have already prepared aid to be shipped aboard two FAC [Colombian Armed Forces] Hercules aircraft. They are waiting for the U.S. troops controlling Omar Torrijos Airport to authorize the landing of the two airplanes. The Hercules planes will also return about 120 Colombians to our country.

Thus far, given the situation on the isthmus, flights have not been authorized.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The Red Cross has readied the necessary shipments to cooperate in the care of the injured, the many injured people, in Panamanian hospitals.

Some food will also be sent for the Colombians, especially those who are going through a fairly difficult situation there. [end recording]

The Colombian Red Cross has been in constant contact with its Panamanian counterpart to determine the fate of Colombians in Panama. It is also asking citizens not to make any blood or food donations until requested.

The Red Cross organizations of El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Colombia are prepared to send aid to that Central American nation.

Drug Trafficker Arrested, To Be Extradited

PY2212182689 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Rafael Juliao, whose extradition has been requested by the United States, has been arrested in Barranquilla.

Juliao was brought to the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] prison, here in Bogota.

Rafael Angel Jose Tomas Juliao, 44, who is charged with drug trafficking, was arrested by DAS personnel in Barranquilla and will be extradited to the United States next week. Meanwhile, the court proceedings will continue. [passage omitted]

Court Releases Leader of Rodriguez Gacha Gang

PY2312120489 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Even at Christmas time we have bad news: A judge has released one of the most important members of the Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha organization. Authorities fear that this man might be trying to rebuild the organization. Although Jorge Noel Barreto is considered a highly dangerous man, a judge let him go free. Barreto is said to be the intelligence chief of Rodriguez Gacha's organization. Ten years ago, when he was a captain of the police, he led an operation in the Contadora neighborhood, north of Bogota, where seven people were killed as they were going home. Barreto thought they were members of a kidnapping band. Later, the State Council rendered judgment against the nation, which had to pay for moral and material damages to the families of the seven people killed. For this reason, Jorge Noel Barreto was dismissed from the police, and it seems that then he was hired by the Rodriguez Gacha organization.

An elite corps of police captured Barreto on 25 October, when the urban action group of the Rodriguez Gacha organization was dismantled. This group was led by the former police captain. Now, intelligence services have established that Barreto is in a mid-Magdalena River forest area trying to rebuild the organization headed by Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, who was killed in Sucre last week. Barreto is said to be undertaking the task with three other men; namely, Leonidas Vargas, Elias Munoz, and an as yet unidentified man.

Military Convoy Ambushed by FARC Guerrillas

PY2412223689 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Excerpt] An intense military dragnet is being carried out in the vicinity of Puerto Gaitan, in Meta, (?in search for) a FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] guerrilla unit that ambushed and killed a noncommissioned officer and 9 soldiers, all of them between 18 and 22 years of age.

The ambushed soldiers were investigating the reported presence of several armed civilians in the region. The military convoy in which the soldiers were traveling was dynamited. [passage omitted]

Former Mines Minister Resigns Due to Threats

PA2512183689 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 Dec 89 p 3A

[Text] Oscar Vallejo Mejia, former Colombian mines minister and current Colombian ambassador to Italy, has confirmed that he left his post as mines minister basically to protect his life, which was threatened by an ELN [Army of National Liberation] commando.

Vallejo said: "They conducted a war trial against me, they found me guilty, sentenced me to death, and then assigned a commando to kill me."

Vallejo said that he bases his statements on announcements made by the ELN itself and on reports provided by government security services.

Vallejo reiterated: "I learned about this because they themselves told me and because state security services confirmed it to me later on.

Vallejo Mejia made the statements during Emisoras Caracol Network's Personality of The Week program.

However, Vallejo said that there are some positive aspects about his withdrawal from the Mines Ministry and about his appointment as ambassador to Italy. "The guerrilla movement interpreted my withdrawal as a triumph for them and suspended their bomb attacks on the oil pipeline. In other words, my withdrawal served a purpose because before my withdrawal, there were two or three bomb attacks a week and since I have left, there have not been any."

The former mines minister commented on Italy's new attitude favoring Colombia and revealed that the Interministerial Committee agreed to give Colombia top priority with regard to technical aid and financial support with soft loans.

Vallejo Mejia talked about his appearances before the Italian press, especially before sports reporters, so that "they stop describing us as mafia members" and so that they differentiate between the mafia and Colombian sports.

Vallejo stated that the participation of Colombian cyclists in European races "gives a good image to the country, although "it does not sell a single pound of coffee, because the market belongs to the companies that roast coffee." Vallejo Mejia added: "In fact, the coffee-producing countries will lose approximately $2.7 billion, and yet consumers have not seen coffee prices go down one penny anywhere in the world. Where is that money then? The money came from the coffee-producing countries and went to the large importing and roasting firms."

Peru

Further Comments on U.S. Activities in Panama

Garcia Says 'Door is Open for Noriega'

PY2612105889 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 0900 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Peruvian President Alan Garcia has said in Lima that the door is open in Peru for Panama's Noriega. He told foreign correspondents that five officers from Noriega's Armed Forces have been given asylum in the Peruvian Embassy in Panama.

According to President Garcia, Peru cannot deny asylum to anyone—notwithstanding the charges made against them—over a matter of principle.

Garcia Calls for OAS Role in Panama

PY2512013589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2358 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] Lima, 25 Dec (EFE)—Peruvian President Alan Garcia today said that, "without wasting a minute," Latin America should "help" the United States out of the "Panamanian swamp" and ensure the evolution of democracy in Panama by sending an inter-American force there.

In a news conference with foreign journalists accredited to Lima, Garcia stressed that the Panamanian problem can only be solved by replacing the U.S. troops with an inter-American force in charge of reconstructing the state and ensuring the democratic process.

Latin American cannot "wash its hands" of nor "recognize" in the "Christmas spirit" the "de facto government" of new Panamanian President Guillermo Endara, Garcia said. He called for a meeting of the OAS foreign ministers to "establish a way to help Panama recover democracy."

Garcia reported that he has been consulting with his Argentine counterpart Carlos Menem, Colombia's Virgilio Barco, and Brazil's Joao Clemente Baena Soares—the OAS secretary general—on the foreign ministers' meeting.

Garcia said that the OAS [word indistinct], "an extremely active role," and can help organize elections to legitimize Endara's government. Garcia said Endara's government is "a de facto regime, just like Noriega's," because it has been "installed under U.S. military tutelage."

Garcia said it was a "Yankee excuse" to say that the failure of the previous OAS initiatives in Panama opened the door to the U.S. invasion. The Peruvian president pointed out that Endara lost the support of the Panamanian people that he had received in the elections when he "used the U.S. presence to become president." "Mr Endara will prove his generosity and lack of ambition by calling for elections and by replacing the U.S. troops by an inter-American force that can better help ensure the elections," Garcia said.

President Garcia said that the "God's shelter" that General Noriega is seeking in the Apostolic Nunciature in Panama is "a secondary event." He added that "the basic problem continues to be the brutal and excessive invasion of [words indistinct] of 30,000 soldiers for a country of 77,000 square km and 2.3 million people."

Garcia recalled that Peru was the first Latin American country to criticize Noriega's "dictatorial regime," which he labeled a U.S. "Frankenstein."

Garcia admitted that after the invasion he adopted the most radical decision on the continent by withdrawing his ambassador from Panama and taking Peru out of the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty. He said: "The real threat for Latin America now is the United States and its policy of the new big stick."

Garcia added that all the explanations given by the U.S. Government to justify the invasion "ended up as nothing" after Endara denied having requested U.S. help.

Garcia regretted that "countries that call themselves democratic and socialists of West Europe"—which he did not further identify—have supported the United States by vetoing the UN resolution on Panama at the Security Council.

He also said that under the current circumstances, he has told the United States that "as a Latin American, I cannot, I should not, and I do not want" to meet with U.S. President George Bush at the "summit" meeting on drug trafficking scheduled for mid-February in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia). He indicated that he cannot pressure his Colombian and Bolivian counterparts to support him, adding that "I only conveyed to them my clear position" of not holding the presidential-level meeting.

He said: "Latin American presidents should not be sitting with an aggressor against Latin America." However, he supported a meeting of interior ministers and police chiefs to discuss drug trafficking.

Garcia Claims Endara 'Has Lost Legitimacy'

PY2512024789 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Regarding the recents events in Panama and Romania, President Alan Garcia said that our country is not with Washington or Moscow. Garcia, who talked with reporters in front of the Governnment House, said that everyone in Latin America knows that Guillermo Endara has lost legitimacy, and he deplored the decision made by U.S. President George Bush to invade Panama. Regarding another issue, he suggested that the public employees who did not get their salaries on time should get an additional payment.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Reporter] What is your evaluation of the world reaction after your decision to recall the Peruvian ambassador from Washington and the decision not to send him back until the U.S. troops that attacked the Panamanian people return to their country? What is your evaluation?

[Garcia] I believe that people around the world are beginning to understand how aggressive and unjust the U.S. attitude was. It was one thing to condemn dictator Noriega as we did when we withdrew our ambassador from Panama, and it is another thing to invade a small country with the great power of the U.S. forces. THE WASHINGTON POST, THE NEW YORK TIMES, the most influential newspapers and radio and television stations are beginning to change their position and to criticize President Bush for sending 30,000 troops to a small country. They are beginning to realize as the days go by that the situation is deteriorating for the United States, because there are many people who—even though they are against Noriega—are also against the U.S. Yankees who invaded Panama wihout having been invited.

Therefore, the situation is gradually going to become more complicated. General Noriega and the main chiefs of the National Guard have not been found. They thought that they were going to go in and come out in 6 hours, and now they know that they will have to stay more than 1 month. Furthermore, everyone in Latin American knows that Endara, whom we received and congratulated here, and who received the popular support, has lost legitimacy by opening the doors to the Yankee invasion in Panama to be sworn-in in front of the Americans, and to establish a so-called parliament under the protection of U.S. Marines.

This is why all of Latin America is realizing that there is no longer a legitimate government to be recognized in Panama. Even the one or two governments that hastily recognized Endara are realizing their great mistake. They also know that Endara is losing the little credibility he has democratically, because the people see Endara as the one who opened the door to the invasion. The struggle among Panamanians is one thing, but an invasion by foreign soldiers is another.

This is why the United States and the world are realizing the serious mistake unfortunately made by President Bush. I deplore that mistake, and I strongly condemn the invasion as a Latin American. Our Congress has taken Peru out of the military mutual assistance treaty that only served to let the United States invade us as they wished.

I really deplore the serious U.S. mistake, which they are about to realize. Some people say that the U.S. troops will have to stay more than 1 year to clean up all those who oppose their presence, and this is going to bring complications.

Panama for years has been struggling for its canal against the United States, which owned it. Now that Panama has been invaded by the United States, the hate and discontent is going to grow. I believe that the United States got into a swamp and complicated its relations with Latin America. [passage omitted]

Larco Cox on OAS Vote, Asylum Offer

PY2312024489 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Regarding the Panamanian situation, Prime Minister and Foreign Relations Minister Guillermo Larco Cox has deplored the attitude of self-styled Panamanian President Guillermo Endara, who, according to international news agency reports, was installed in power under the protection of invading U.S. troops.

Larco Cox said that, during a meeting of the Security Council summoned by the OAS, Peruvian Ambassador Alejandro Leon explained that Peru's rejection of the U.S. attitude implies a call for new elections in Panama, something which has still not taken place. Thus, by assuming power through force with the weapons of another country, Endara has committed an act of treason and must be known from now on as the Judas of Panama.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Do you think that the OAS adopted an important decision today at 0600?

[Larco Cox] Yes. Despite the different positions of all the foreign ministries represented at the OAS, this organization still issued a resolution deploring the military intervention and requesting respect for the Panamanian people's right to sovereignty.

Peru has stated through its ambassador to the OAS that we believe that respect for the Panamanian people's right to sovereignty will make it necessary to hold new elections with international observers. Otherwise, in the way the document was initially written it could have been interpreted to say that we legitimately recognized the man who was installed in Panama, betraying all these principles.

[Reporter] What has Ambassador Cesar Atala [Peruvian ambassador to the United States] reported?

[Larco Cox] Ambassador Atala will only be arriving here at midnight on 23 December; he was not able to come earlier due to the seasonally heavy air traffic. [end recording]

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 0145 GMT on 23 December 1989, in a similar item, adds the following: "Larco Cox reported that the Peruvian Embassy in Panama is open to any members of General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime who wish to request asylum. The Peruvian Embassy in Panama has already given asylum to a Panamanian army major whose name is yet not known in Lima. However, it has been reported that he studied at the Peruvian military school of Chorrillo, from where Noriega also graduated."]

Evacuation Plane Requested

PY2312162089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1539 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Lima, 23 Dec (EFE)—Peruvian Ambassador in Panama Mario Castro Arenas today asked the Peruvian President to send military planes to Panama to evacuate Peruvian citizens who are in danger.

The ambassador told a local radio station that he had urged Peruvian President Alan Garcia to send planes that could also bring food and medicine to the Panamanians.

Castro Arenas, who has been in Lima since August this year—recalled by his government—said that early this morning he received a desperate call from a group of Peruvian citizens who were afraid that they were about to be attacked by a mob of Panamanians.

The ambassador explained that there is "widespread looting" in Panama because the poorest people are hungry, and he added that the situation is one of "chaos and anarchy and not of tranquillity as the people in Lima believe."

Castro Arenas explained that the attacks on buildings from which U.S. soldiers are being resisted is constantly threatening the civilian population. He said that he could hear "the bombs going off" over the telephone.

Castro Arenas said that there are approximately 3,000 Peruvians in Panama. He added that several people have sought refuge at the Peruvian Embassy in Panama but did not specify the exact number. He also said that "there is no one there to take care of them."

According to the ambassador, the Peruvian diplomats are all blocked at their homes; their cars have been taken away, and one of them has been wounded by a gunshot.

Castro Arenas said that he is constantly receiving calls that keep him informed of what is going on in Panama. He said that the nations that have been showing so much concern over what is happening in Panama should start urgently sending food and medicine and "not stop at mere declarations."

Congress Condemns U.S. Invasion

PY2412020389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0041 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Lima, 23 Dec (EFE)—The Peruvian Congress in a special session today condemned the U.S. invasion of Panama and demanded compliance with the Torrijos-Carter treaties on the canal. The congressional motion also rejects the administration of Guillermo Endara, which was installed "under the protection of invading forces," and demands the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops and compensation for the death and destruction they have caused.

The Peruvian Congress also proposed that the executive branch, in conjunction with the Group of Eight, seek a way to call elections in Panama to form a new government that would be freely elected by the people without foreign interference.

The Peruvian Congress also expressed its solidarity with the Panamanian people and its support for "the struggle the Panamanian people are carrying out for their national sovereignty and the restoration of democracy, which has been trampled by General Manuel Antonio Noriega's dictatorship."

The congressional motion asserts that the only way to solve the internal Panamanian situation is by holding free elections under international supervision with the full exercise of sovereignty. [passage omitted]

Congress Approves TIAR Withdrawal

PA2312064689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0542 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Lima, 22 Dec (EFE)—The Peruvian Congress approved a resolution tonight calling for the country to pull out of the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (TIAR) as a result of the U.S. invasion. The treaty was signed by this country 42 years ago.

The legislative resolution, drafted by Peruvian President Alan Garcia denouncing the TIAR, was approved by a majority vote.

The resolution was adopted today during the first day of the extraordinary sessions which will end on 23 December. The sessions were convoked by Alan Garcia to study the denouncement of the treaty and the general situation in Panama, following the U.S. military invasion which has been criticized in harsh terms by the Peruvian Government.

Parliamentary spokesmen said that the document was not signed by representatives of the center-right Popular Action Party, Popular Christian Party, and Society and Democracy Party.

After Peru signed the TIAR on 2 December 1947 in Rio de Janeiro, it was approved by the Peruvian Congress on 29 September 1950. The TIAR provides that Latin American countries and the United States will join in mutual defense in the event of a foreign aggression. Alan Garcia stated on 21 December that the TIAR is "totally inoperative and senseless," which is why he defended Peru's denouncement of the treaty.

Vargas Llosa Criticizes TIAR Withdrawal

PY2512141589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1932 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] Lima, 24 Dec (TELAM - EFE)—Peruvian novelist Mario Vargas Llosa, a favorite in the 1990 election race, said here today that the Congressional decision to denounce the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (TIAR) was "hasty."

On 23 December, a day after President Alan Garcia said that the TIAR "is absolutely ineffective," the Peruvian Congress approved a motion by which Peru would abandon the TIAR which was signed in 1947 in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil).

The denunciation of the TIAR was approved by the congressional majority made up of senators and deputies from the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) party, while the center-right Popular Action party, the Popular Christian Party, and the Society and Democracy [Sociedad y Democracia] party abstained.

Vargas Llosa said that the congressional decision "seemed more like a political gesture—by Alan Garcia—of a candidate seeking votes, rather than that of a statesman conducting a country."

Terrorist, Guerrilla Activities; Army Assault

Bombs Near Vargas Llosa Home Defused

PY2512195389 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1857 GMT 25 Dec 89

[Text] Lima, 25 Dec (TELAM-DPA)—No terrorist group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack on the home of Democratic Front presidential candidate Mario Vargas Llosa. Two bombs were placed in a building next to Vargas Llosa's home in Lima's Barranco District, but police officers deactivated them both.

Initial rumors claimed that the "Rodrigo Franco" group, which opposes the leftist Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, had placed the two bombs. Police, however, have not confirmed these rumors.

The bombs were placed in a bathroom in the Tourism Center next to Vargas Llosa's home. A note found near the bombs called the writer an "exploiter" and warned that there will be other attacks.

The writer's son, Alvaro Vargas Llosa, said that his father is determined not to give up: "My father and I will not be discouraged by threats and attacks by unpatriotic people acting against the law," he said.

Army Destroys MRTA Training Camp

PY2512152289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1923 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] Lima, 23 Dec (EFE)—It was reported in Lima today that on 17 December the Army destroyed a training camp belonging to the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA). The camp, which was located in the town of Iscozacin, was the terrorist organization's most important training camp in Peru.

It is thought that the MRTA had Colombian M-19 guerrilla trainers in this camp because M-19 flags were found. Besides, the communications equipment was Colombian-made.

The Army surprised the terrorists on 17 December, on their rest day when their guard was down, and killed 43 terrorists.

According to a military report, a sergeant was killed in action by a minor.

This MRTA training camp, which was impossible to detect from the air, was located in a forest near the town of Iscozacin, Oxapampa Province, Pasco Department, in the Peruvian central mountains.

At least 150 people were being trained at the terrorist training camp which had a field hospital, kitchens, and a firing range.

The terrorists had a good arsenal which included a 7.62 mm MAG [as received] machine gun, a heavy machine gun, antitank rockets, and FAL rifles.

Shining Path Kills Newly-Elected Mayor

PY2512155489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1921 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Huancayo, 24 Dec (EFE)—According to the Huancayo provincial police, alleged Shining Path terrorists today murdered Huancayo's newly-elected mayor Hernan Espinoza Cardenas, a militant of the right-wing Democratic Front (FREDEMO). The mayor was shot in the head. Huancayo, in Junin Department, is 302 km east of Lima.

Police said that Espinoza was attacked by two individuals as he was about to enter his home.

Witnesses said that one of the attackers called the mayor by name and, when he turned, his accomplice shot him in the face. The bullet exited through the back of his neck. One of Espinoza's children was also shot in a leg.

One of the attackers approached the mayor, who was bleeding on the pavement, and laid a sign on his chest with the inscription: "This is how we deal with informers," followed by "PCP" (Peruvian Communist Party, official name of the Shining Path) in red letters.

Espinoza, who was elected on 12 November and was scheduled to assume office on 1 January, is the fifth elected municipal authority to be killed by alleged terrorists in Huancayo. Three of the murdered officials belonged to FREDEMO, and two were members of the ruling APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance]. [passage omitted]

Shining Path Kills 11 for Voting

PY2312163289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2053 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Ayacucho, Peru 22 Dec (EFE)—Alleged members of the terrorist Shining Path have murdered 11 peasant leaders in the highest settlements of the Ayacucho Andean Province in retaliation for their having voted in

the November municipal elections, National Police sources have reported today in Ayacucho.

On 19 December, a 20-man terrorist squad attacked the settlement of Pallqa, southwest of Ayacucho. After berating most of the residents for having voted in the elections, the commando killed 10 of their leaders with gunshots and machetes, the sources reported.

A few hours later, a group—apparently the same—invaded the San Juan Bautista settlement and murdered the residents' leader Diomedes Callampi, after trying him in a "people's court" that found him "guilty" of inciting the peasants to vote in the elections.

Because of the poor means of communication at the two attacked settlements, the murders were reported by the police only last night.

Through pamphlets and warnings, the Shining Path had threatened the Ayacucho people with retaliation if they disobeyed the orders to boycott the elections. Carrying out the threats, the terrorist group has already murdered at least 100 peasants, the police source said.

Ayacucho Power Cut by Shining Path

PY2512165389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0142 GMT 24 Dec 89

[Text] Ayacucho, 23 Dec (EFE)—Military sources said today that an Army soldier was killed and another soldier was wounded during a terrorist ambush yesterday in Tambo, 190 km from Ayacucho.

According to leaflets distributed today in Ayacucho by alleged members of the guerrilla organization Shining Path, this organization will continue to destroy power towers until May 1990 to disrupt the city's electricity supply.

Ayacucho is currently without electricity. The military authorities announced the suspension of the curfew during Christmas and New Year.

State of Emergency Declared in El Callao, Lima

PY2312165289 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Dec 89

[Text] The government has declared a state of emergency in the provinces of Lima and El Callao for a period of 15 days. The government decree states that internal order will be kept by the Armed Forces.

Venezuela

President Perez on Solutions to Panamanian Crisis

PA2212222789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1907 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Caracas, 22 Dec (EFE)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez today stated that the solution to the Panamanian situation demands "that the U.S. invasion stop first of all, and then the constituent assembly should be convoked to prepare new elections."

"It would be stupid for Guillermo Endara's government to become permanent because it is born with the stigma of the invasion, even though it has a legitimacy resulting from the 7 May elections," Perez said in a news conference.

Venezuela abstained from supporting an OAS resolution which "deplored" the U.S. military intervention in Panama. The resolution was approved today in Washington by 20 of the 31 OAS member nations.

The Venezuelan president, who denied rumors about the possible resignation of Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo, said: "We abstained beacause the OAS must assume an operational role and not only issue declarations of principles."

Asked about the proposals Venezuela considers operational, Perez said that "the options would be to send an OAS observer mission to Panama; and it would be possible for UN blue helmets to replace the U.S. forces.

The Venezuelan president also said that a constituent assembly should be convoked in Panama after the U.S. forces' departure, to work toward the creation of a new government democratically elected by the people.

"Endara must understand that his government is a transition phase," the Venezuelan president said.

Referring to the OAS resolution, Perez said that "Venezuelan went to the OAS to say that the approval of a resolution condemning the invasion would be adopting a negative attitude, and Latin America has to help Panama overcome the situation."

"On 12 October, I said at the Group of Seven (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Uruguay, Mexico, and Venezuela—Panama is suspended) summit that there would be a U.S. intervention in Panama if Latin America did not adopt its own initiative before 1 January," Perez added.

The Venezuelan president said: "I do not want to be a prophet of past things, but I believe that I know how the great powers act; and that is why I spoke as I did at the Ica (Peru) summit."

The Venezuelan Government issued a communique on 20 December saying that it would recognize Guillermo Endara's Panamanian Government "once the U.S. forces leave the country."

The OAS resolution approved today in Washington urges an immediate end of hostilities and requests the immediate start of negotiations among the various political groups in the country to achieve a coordinated solution to the crisis.

Plane With Citizens Arrives From Panama

PA2612140889 Paris AFP in Spanish 1336 GMT 26 Dec 89

[Text] Caracas, 26 Dec (AFP)—Venezuelan morning paper EL NACIONAL reported today that last night a Venezuelan Air Force plane brought back 41 Venezuelan citizens, including 10 children who had been living in Panama.

The Hercules plane also brought back the wife and children of Jacinto Rodriguez, Panamanian charge d'affaires in Venezuela, who represented the government of deposed Panamanian president Francisco Rodriguez.

According to EL NACIONAL, President Carlos Andres Perez has said that Rodriguez maintains his diplomatic status. [sentence as received]